Daily Report

Latin America

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Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-181 *19 September 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An Ω indicates a Foreign Media Note.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Honduran, Salvadoran Presidents Joint Statement on Border Demarcation *[LA TRIBUNA 12 Sep]* 1

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Castro Reportedly Willing To Send 5,000 Troops to Haiti *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 2
PRENSA LATINA Cites Clinton's Speech on Haiti Invasion *[PRENSA LATINA]* 2
Alarcon Views Invasion of Haiti as 'Serious Precedent' *[Havana TV]* 2
Robaina Urges Peaceful Solution to Haitian Crisis *[PRENSA LATINA]* 3
Further on Robaina's Comments *[NOTIMEX]* 3
Alarcon Denies 'Secret' Pact With U.S. *[Havana Radio]* 3
Alarcon Says Guantanamo Refugees May Return *[Havana Radio]* 4
Havana Notes Suspension of Guantanamo Refugee Transfer *[Havana Radio]* 4
Radio Airs Report of 'Privileged' Treatment for Rafters *[Havana Radio]* 4
Government Urges U.S. To Prevent 'Escapes' From Guantanamo *[PRENSA LATINA]* 4
Minfar Announces Rescue of Guantanamo Escapees *[Havana TV]* 5
Cayman Islands Reportedly To Repatriate Cuban Immigrants *[PRENSA LATINA]* 5
Coast Guard Troops Recover 6 Bodies, Assist 1,389 Rafters *[Havana Radio]* 6
Envoy Believes Rafter Talks Eased Tensions With U.S. *[NOTIMEX]* 6
White House Has 'Opened a Door to Hell' in Guantanamo *[Havana Radio]* 6
'Straight Talk' on U.S. Immigration Accord *[Havana Radio]* 7
Raul Castro on Internal Situation *[PRENSA LATINA]* 9
Raul Castro Defends Revolution *[PRENSA LATINA]* 15
UN Human Rights Commissioner Postpones Trip *[NOTIMEX]* 16
Commission Reviewing Bilateral Cooperation With Mexico *[NOTIMEX]* 16
Mexico Forms Joint Enterprise With Cuban Petroleum *[NOTIMEX]* 17
Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Arrives in Havana *[Havana TV]* 17
Havana Water System Repairs in Progress *[Havana Radio]* 18
Havana's APPP Discusses Water Shortages, Transportation *[Havana Radio]* 18
Drinking Water Priority Outranks Nutrition, Transport *[Havana Radio]* 19
Report Details Exportability of Vaccines *[PRENSA LATINA]* 19

Bahamas

Ministers Comment on Departure of Troops for Haiti *[Nassau Radio]* 20
Troop Departure, Composition for Haiti Operation Detailed *[Nassau Radio]* 20
Ingraham Departs for U.S., Comments on Haiti *[Nassau Radio]* 21

Cayman Islands

Cuban Refugees Continue Arriving; Repatriation Planned *[Kingston Radio]* 22

Dominican Republic

Military Tightens Security Along Haitian Border *[NOTIMEX]* 22
Canadian Observers Pull Back From Border With Haiti *[Montreal Radio]* 22

Haiti

Clinton's 15 Sep Address Summarized *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 22
De Facto Foreign Minister Calls Clinton Statements 'Visibly Untrue' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 23
PRENSA LATINA Report *[PRENSA LATINA]* 23
U.S. Aircraft Drop Radios Over Port-au-Prince *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 24
'Thousands' Said Abandoning Port-au-Prince *[AFP]* 24
Jamaica's Seaga Says Haitian Leaders Want To Resign *[AFP]* 25
Biamby Denies Reported Seaga Statements *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 25
Refuses To Relinquish Power; Ready to Resist *[Hamburg DPA]* 25
Denies Military Negotiating Withdrawal *[Madrid EFE]* 26
Carter Delegation Arrives; Demonstrations at Airport *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 26
Cedras, Biamby Meet With Carter; Demonstrations Continue *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 26
Military Leaders Said To Insist on Two 'Essential' Points *[AFP]* 26
Military Leaders Reject Deployment of 'Occupation Troops' *[AFP]* 27
Further on Rejection of 'Occupation Troops' *[AFP]* 27
'Clear Sense of Relief' in Port-au-Prince Over Agreement *[AFP]* 27
Jonassaint Speaks on Agreement *[Madrid EFE]* 27

Jamaica

Seaga Announces Proposal by Haitian Military Leaders *[Castries TV]* 28
Haiti Expert: Regime Incapable of 'Consolidating Power' *[Castries TV]* 28

MEXICO

Government Reaffirms Opposition to Invasion of Haiti *[NOTIMEX]* 29
EZLN Rebels Declare State of Alert in Chiapas *[Madrid EFE]* 29
Defense Secretariat Denies Sending More Troops to Chiapas *[NOTIMEX]* 29
Government Mediator Rejects EZLN Charges of Army Offensive *[NOTIMEX]* 30
Cuba's Alarcon Interviewed on U.S. Talks *[LA JORNADA 15 Sep]* 30
Foreign Minister To Sign Economic Agreements *[NOTIMEX]* 32

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Defense Minister on Cuban Refugees; Foreign Minister on Haiti
[EL DIARIO DE HOY 16 Sep] 33
Foreign Minister Responds to Clinton Address on Haiti *[NOTIMEX]* 33

Guatemala

President De Leon Praises Agreement on Haiti *[Hamburg DPA]* 33

Nicaragua

President Signs Agreement With Germany To Renegotiate Debt *[BARRICADA 13 Sep]* 34
Humberto Ortega Reiterates Plan To Retire in 1995 *[Managua Radio]* 34

Panama

Perez Balladares Offers Asylum to Cedras *[Panama City Radio]* 34
Government To Send Medical Mission to Haiti *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 16 Sep]* 35
Relations With Cuba To Be Raised to Ambassador Level
[EL PANAMA AMERICA 16 Sep] 35
Cuban Rafters Request Asylum *[ACAN]* 35
Illegal Cuban Immigration Operation Uncovered *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 17 Sep]* 36
'All' Visas Annulled *[Panama City TV]* 36

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Cuba Protests Menem's Call for Democratization *[CLARIN 16 Sep]* 37
Menem: Support for Haiti Invasion Maintained *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 37
Border Police To Participate *[TELAM]* 37
Menem Offers Asylum to Castro, Haiti's Cedras *[AFP]* 37
Government Submits National Budget to Congress *[LA NACION 15 Sep]* 38

Bolivia

Police To Participate in Peacekeeping Force *[Madrid EFE]* 38
COB To Resume Negotiations With Government *[La Paz TV]* 39

Brazil

Franco Applauds U.S. Negotiators Going to Haiti *[Hamburg DPA]* 39
Franco Signs Decree Promoting Tlatelolco Treaty *[Brasilia Radio]* 39
Government Opposes Conditions on Coffee Exports *[AGENCIA ESTADO]* 39
Lula: Import Tax Cuts To Increase Unemployment *[AGENCIO ESTADO]* 40
PT Presidential Candidate Lula Interviewed *[Sao Paulo TV]* 40

Chile

Foreign Minister Defends Invasion of Haiti *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 42
U.S. Expected To Explain Trade Accord Delay *[Santiago TV]* 42
Foreign Minister on Free Trade Postponement *[Santiago TV]* 43

Colombia

Botero Says Police Changes, Morality Drive Tied *[EL ESPECTADOR 4 Sep]* 43
Meeting Shows Dissension Among Police Generals *[EL TIEMPO 9 Sep]* 43

Paraguay

Wasmosy Voices Opposition to Invasion of Haiti *[Madrid EFE]* 44
Ecuadoran President Favors Rio Group Stand on Haiti *[Asuncion TV]* 44

Venezuela

Senator Urges Clinton To Stop Invasion of Haiti *[Caracas Radio]* 45
U.S. Decision on Venezuelan Oil 'Discriminatory' *[Caracas Radio]* 45
Council of Ministers Approves Austerity Plan *[Caracas Radio]* 45

Honduran, Salvadoran Presidents Joint Statement on Border Demarcation

PA1609225694 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 12 Sep 94 p 73

[Joint statement issued by Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina and Salvadoran President Armando Calderon Sol in San Salvador on 10 September]

[Text] The presidents of the Republics of El Salvador and Honduras, having met in the city of San Salvador on 10 September 1994, fully embracing our determination for integration and fully convinced that the search for harmonious solutions through understanding will strengthen our ties for the good of our two nations, thus contributing to maintaining peace and regional stability, hereby issue the following:

JOINT STATEMENT

We hereby state that during our meeting we clarified all inaccurate reports that have circulated recently regarding circumstances that could have damaged relations between two sister nations.

We hereby reaffirm the pro-Central American vocation of our peoples and governments. This vocation must be expressed in the form of closer relations on all levels and more effective cooperation between us to achieve the high goals set by the nations on the isthmus.

We reaffirm our determination to comply with and fulfill the 11 September 1992 ruling of the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The ruling includes legal, material, and human issues that must be addressed and resolved within an atmosphere of full understanding. We must take into account the development of border regions and the legal and human nature of these regions, implementing the appropriate measures to make sure they will continue to live in peace in the affected areas, and therefore agree on the need to appoint civilian officials.

To this end, we have decided to schedule meetings of the Special Demarcation Commission and the Honduran-Salvadoran Binational Commission, thus highlighting the need to resume within the shortest possible time the task of border demarcation and to promote all those activities directed at resolving the property, land tenure, and nationality problems.

We express the need to promote common interest projects that can contribute to the development of the two nations in hydroelectricity, roads and highways, and other areas of benefit to our two nations.

We hereby state that the brotherly relations that unite our people and governments shall remain unchanged, in accordance with our strong belief in the Morazanist ideals and consistent with the way in which two countries united by history, aware of their common destiny, should behave.

Carlos Roberto Reina, president of the Republic of Honduras; Armando Calderon Sol, president of the Republic of El Salvador.

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Cuba

Castro Reportedly Willing To Send 5,000 Troops to Haiti

PA1709185794 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Report by Ivan Dario Parra, from the "Cripton" newscast]

[Text] This morning, Phillipe Biamby categorically said that he will not surrender to the invading troops and that the only way he will leave Port-au-Prince is dead. Biamby and Police Chief Michel Francois are the closest collaborators of General Raoul Cedras, thus it is presumed that the negotiations to be conducted by former President Jimmy Carter will be unsuccessful.

Carter is arriving at the Port-au-Prince airport accompanied by General Colin Powell and Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. The delegation sent by President Clinton will stay in Haiti overnight, and for this reason, the invasion will not take place in the next 24 hours.

Sources close to top U.S. military leaders reported that regardless of the negotiations by Carter and whether or not he gets the coupists to leave the island, the multinational force will still occupy that small Caribbean nation.

In addition, Fidel Castro is reportedly sending 5,000 troops to Haiti to fight American forces.

[Begin Dominican correspondent Dennis Erasne recording] Fidel Castro, fearing that the planes could attack Cuban territory, reportedly said to sources close to the United States and the Haitians that he would be willing to send a force, made up of approximately 5,000 men, to repel the U.S. invasion in Haiti. [end recording]

This afternoon, Cedras and the U.S. delegation will meet in Port-au-Prince at a location that has not yet been established.

PRENSA LATINA Cites Clinton's Speech on Haiti Invasion

PA1609194994 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0438 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Washington, 16 Sep (PL)—President Bill Clinton pointed out that U.S. troops preparing to enter Haiti with the excuse of restoring democracy will only remain in the Caribbean nation for a few months in order to ensure political stability.

During his radio and television address last night, the U.S. President insisted on justifying the invasion now being prepared against the Caribbean country as aimed at safeguarding national security, democracy, and U.S. international credibility.

In explaining to his people the reasons for an invasion of Haiti, the President emphasized that history has taught us that protecting democracy in our region reinforces prosperity and the security of the United States.

Haiti is located close to U.S. maritime borders and our interests are unmistakable; the mission is within our reach and is a limited one, as long as we are supported by several nations throughout the world, Clinton acknowledged in stating that the invasion would consist of two phases.

First, to ensure a "safe environment" by means of the arrival of U.S. forces, which will be immediately followed by the disembarking of at least 2,000 troops from 20 countries, including nations such as Poland, Bangladesh, Israel, and Jordan.

A significant portion of the U.S. contingent will not remain for a long period, only for a few months, Clinton announced. He also indicated that a smaller contingent would remain side by side with the multinational force under the UN auspices to safeguard the transition.

Minority republican legislators in congress, including Richard Lugar, member of the Select Foreign Relations Committee, questioned the president's project by contending that Haiti is not of strategic value to Washington.

On the other hand, in an interview broadcasted by CBS television, General Raoul Cedras defied Clintons' ultimatum, and indicated that he will resist the invaders by leading the Haitian Armed Forces.

Analysts have pointed out that it is still too premature to gauge what position will be adopted by the Haitian coup leaders as the foreign intervention draws closer. Allegedly, differences exist between the coup leaders.

Contradictory signals are flowing from Port-au-Prince related to differences of opinion between the three generals who masterminded the coup that ousted Aristide from the presidency three years ago.

Alarcon Views Invasion of Haiti as 'Serious Precedent'

FL1709033694 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Sep 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon, leader of the Cuban delegation to the talks that ended with an immigration agreement with the United States, gave a news conference today. Irma Caceres reports:

[Begin recording] [Caceres] The interest of the foreign and national press in the immigration agreement signed between Cuba and the United States reached a climax when Alarcon answered numerous questions by reporters from the most influential media in the world.

Alarcon discussed the arguments, developments, and possibilities of this agreement that have already been

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addressed in interviews and public appearances, and affirmed Cuba's intention to comply with the agreed compromises.

The topic of Haiti and the role of the United States in this matter could not be ignored.

[Alarcon] I do not believe problems can be solved by violating the principle of nonintervention or by the use of force, including this situation with Haiti which, in addition, could be a serious precedent for all of Latin America.

Furthermore, it is necessary to consider, after the military is removed and President Aristide is reinstated in power, whether anybody will even remember the misery of the Haitian people and the enormous need for strong international cooperation. Nobody remembered this during the few months Aristide was president. I wonder if, after the United States military intervention—assuming it takes place, and as easily as they seem to believe—Haiti will continue to be a cause of concern, or whether it will be forgotten, as it has always been.

[Caceres] The interest and speculation was limitless, and as Alarcon stated, some answers remained for the United States to answer. The two hours did not seem to tire anyone out as they cornered Alarcon in search of a priceless exclusive. [end recording]

Robaina Urges Peaceful Solution to Haitian Crisis

PA1809211694 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2004 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 18 Sep (PL)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said today in Havana that he trusts that in the end, factors will emerge which will make it possible to avoid the brutal aggression of a U.S. military intervention in Haiti.

The head of Cuban diplomacy added that any effort to avoid a U.S. invasion is worthy of praise.

The United States could end the Haitian crisis with the stroke of a blood-stained pen, but the possibility of a peaceful solution must be sought, the ranking Cuban official emphasized.

Robaina made these remarks upon welcoming his Mexican counterpart, Manuel Tello Macias, who today initiated an official visit to Cuba, where he will participate in the sixth meeting of the Intergovernmental General Mixed Commission.

Robaina described Cuba's relations with Mexico as historical and stressed that during Tello's visit, these ties will be intensified, particularly in the economic sphere.

Further on Robaina's Comments

PA1809212894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1949 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 18 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Cuban Foreign Relations Minister Roberto Robaina stated today that he hopes the U.S. delegation headed by former President James Carter will be successful in finding a negotiated solution to the Haitian crisis.

Carter's mission is more rational and intelligent than a military intervention in the Caribbean country, Robaina told the media.

The Cuban foreign minister said: "I hope Carter's effort is successful, because he could help the U.S. Administration, especially President (William) Clinton himself and those who support him in one way or another, to avoid a rather bloody outcome."

Carter arrived in Port-au-Prince yesterday to try to convince the Haitian military junta to leave power voluntarily, pointing out: "I trust that during the last minutes or last hours, there can still be rational elements for preventing so many innocent people from becoming the victims of an aggression. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Former President Carter, along with Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, today were holding a second meeting with the Haitian military leadership, but the results of the meeting are not yet known.

Robaina warned of the eventual outcome of an invasion of the neighboring country, because "what is being done in Haiti today could be done in any country in the region in the future."

"Neither interventions nor blockades are the solution to any problem, regardless of how disheartening the problem may be. If one wants to negotiate, there are many types of negotiations to prevent a military intervention," the Cuban foreign minister emphasized.

He added that as for the speculation on a military intervention, "the United States could settle it, as the entire world knows, with a stroke of a pen, a very bloody pen."

Cuba condemned the UN Security Council June 1994 resolution authorizing the creation of a multinational force to oust the Haitian military junta and to reinstate Constitutional President Jean Bertrand Aristide.

Alarcon Denies 'Secret' Pact With U.S.

PA1709022094 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Sep 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon, who headed the Cuban delegation that recently negotiated a migration agreement with the United States, today denied reports about the existence of an alleged secret bilateral pact that could explain Cuba's satisfaction over the results of the negotiations.

Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, said Washington and Havana

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have denied such speculation at all times, and he described as very positive the joint communique signed in New York.

Alarcon said he does not believe the United States was insincere when it expressed its satisfaction over the resolution of a problem and the signing of a migration agreement with Cuba. Alarcon also denied before domestic and foreign journalists that Cuba had demanded 100,000 visas per year.

In terms of those Cubans currently held at the Guantanamo Naval Base, Alarcon explained that those who want to be repatriated will have to wait for a diplomatic negotiation process. Meanwhile, those who decide to remain at Guantanamo or at other concentration camps will be trapped during a period in which U.S. policy toward illegal Cuban migrants continues to change.

Alarcon said the full implementation of the migration agreements will create a new situation that will make it possible to find human formulas in resolving the conflict. Alarcon reaffirmed that any permanent resolution to the conflict between the two countries will require the discussion of the blockade and the policy of hostility toward the Cuban Revolution by successive U.S. Governments.

In statements to the Cuban daily GRANMA, Alarcon said the migration agreements signed with the United States are, in a sense, a partial blow to the hostile blockade policy. The Cuban issue has never had the preeminence and priority it now has in the U.S. press and among broad political sectors in that nation, Alarcon concluded.

Alarcon Says Guantanamo Refugees May Return

FL1709134694 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Sep 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada said in a news conference on 16 September that the United States' decision not to process those who flee illegally as immigration candidates is a logical consequence of the change in policy reflected in the bilateral agreements between Havana and Washington. Referring to the Cubans at Guantanamo Naval Base, Alarcon assured that they could return if they wished, since Cuba would accept them after completing the necessary arrangements and paperwork.

In respect to the measures taken by U.S. President William Clinton, the head of the Cuban delegation to New York said that they are contradictory to the spirit of the agreement and should be canceled. They are a response to a crisis already overcome, the crisis of the massive exodus of Cubans to Florida

Havana Notes Suspension of Guantanamo Refugee Transfer

FL1709134994 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Sep 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] The United States Southern Command said that the transfer of Cuban immigrants to the Panama Canal Zone from the Guantanamo Naval Base has been temporarily suspended due to the fact that the United States military installation will be used to support the invasion of Haiti.

Radio Airs Report of 'Privileged' Treatment for Rafters

PA1809040394 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Report by Linda Baquiel from Puerto Rico; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] While thousands of Haitians are being held in prisons in the United States or on Guantanamo Naval Base just for fleeing the fascist dictatorship in their country, some rafters who (?arrived from) Cuba this weekend are being lodged in a luxury hotel at the Luis Munoz Marin Airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service has already granted them an interview and says it is doing everything possible to guarantee that they are granted political asylum.

Despite the special treatment the United States continues to give this type of privileged illegal immigrant, another group of male rafters arrested in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico complained about the treatment given to them this week. A television news team reached the jail where the rafters were being held and was able to tape some of their comments before the arrival of the authorities, who suspended the unauthorized interview and blocked cameras with their hands, leaving viewers in the dark.

Shortly before disappearing from the screens, the Cubans said they had been fooled by the promises of democracy and wealth that were waiting for them in the United States. They did not expect to reach a colony, either.

This was a report from San Juan, Puerto Rico by Linda Baquiel, member of the Human Rights Commission of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party.

Government Urges U.S. To Prevent 'Escapes' From Guantanamo

PA1809163094 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1502 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 18 Sep (PL)—Cuba today called on the United States to adopt the appropriate measures to

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prevent escapes from the illegal naval base in Guantanamo, where Cubans are being held. In light of a recent incident, Cuba also again warned that it is extremely dangerous to try to cross the mine fields.

A note issued by the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (Minfar), published today in the weekly JUVENTUD REBELDE, reports that between 1 and 17 September, 27 Cubans escaped from the camp on the U.S. military installation into Cuba.

The note states that at 1220 (1620 GMT) on 17 September, following a difficult rescue operation, "four Cuban citizens, two unharmed, one slightly injured, and one dead" were brought across the mine field located along the border with the base "by our sappers who risked their own lives."

The preliminary report shows that these Cubans tried to cross into Cuban territory by land, walked into the mine field, and caused an explosion.

The note adds that: "It is the responsibility of the United States to adopt all the appropriate measures to prevent the escape, from the base, of these people who risk crossing mine fields in the occupied territory, as well as in free territory, which are part of the defense lines of the two forces."

The note continues to state that several of the 17 Cubans who left the base between 1 and 17 September and who were rescued at great risk by Cuban fighters, have said that the living conditions at the base, where other incidents have occurred, are complex and difficult.

The Cubans said that since 6 Septmeber, several protests, unrests, and demonstrations have been staged by Cubans, and approximately seven soldiers and many Cubans have been hurt.

The note adds that according to reports received from the Cubans who left the base, on 12 September one of the incidents was stopped with the use of force. Riot troops were used, and 12 immigrants were arrested.

The Minfar adds that the aforementioned coincides with an announcement made by the Pentagon. The Pentagon reported the death of one person who, during a strange incident that occurred on that day, ran to the hills, jumped from a 13 meter cliff, and fell on some rocks.

Minfar Announces Rescue of Guantanamo Escapees

FL1809235494 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] We will read a note from the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [Minfar] which was printed in today's edition of the newspaper JUVENTUD REBELDE:

The Minfar advises that at 1220 [local time] on 17 September, after intense rescue efforts, a group of Cuban citizens were rescued from a section of the mined field on the border with the Guantanamo Naval Base [words indistinct]. One was slightly wounded and the other died. Preliminary investigations showed that this group, consisting of four people held at the Guantanamo Naval Base, tried to cross into free territory by land. They entered a mined field, provoking the explosion of one of those mines. According to the information that was obtained, relatives of the victim were notified.

From 1 September to date, a total of 27 Cubans have escaped from the naval base's camps to free Cuban territory. Several of them have been rescued from the minefields at great risk by Cuban combatants. According to those questioned, they have been submitted to complex, difficult living conditions. Since 6 September, there have been recurrent protests, riots, and demonstrations by the Cubans, during which approximately seven U.S. soldiers and numerous Cubans have been injured. These riots and demonstrations were finally crushed through the use of anti-riot forces. As a result of this, 12 emigrants have been jailed.

This coincides with the Pentagon's announcement of a person who died in a strange incident during the riots of that day by running toward the hills and leaping to the sea from a height of 13 meters, dying on the rocks below. It is the responsibility of the U.S. side to adopt all necessary measures to keep these citizens from escaping that base and running the very grave risk of crossing the minefields that support the lines of defense on both sides.

Signed: Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, 17 September 1994.

Cayman Islands Reportedly To Repatriate Cuban Immigrants

PA1609162594 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1325 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 16 Sep (PL)—Cayman Islands has warned that it will repatriate all Cuban immigrants who arrive at its shores "without visas or any other documentation."

A warning from the Cayman Islands Government, published today by the newspaper GRANMA, indicates that over the past few weeks, several hundred Cuban citizens have arrived on the island without visas or other documents. Their intention is to enter the United States, which is turning them away.

In response to this, Cayman Islands has decided that all immigrants who arrive without visas will be returned to Cuba because, due to a lack of resources, "it is impossible to provide them with lodging or grant them residency."

"We are urgently asking all who intend to travel to Cayman Islands without obtaining the necessary visas to

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desist from doing so because they will be returned to Cuba," the official warning concludes.

Coast Guard Troops Recover 6 Bodies, Assist 1,389 Rafters

PA1609232894 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Sep 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The Cuban Interior Ministry has reported that between 5 August and 13 September, the time during which departures by people using their own means to travel the United States increased, Coast Guard troops recovered the bodies of six drowned persons within the island's territorial waters. The note appeared in the daily GRANMA on Thursday. Four of these people were identified and their remains turned over to their relatives. The other two were buried after authorities failed to establish their identities.

The Cuban Interior Ministry indicated that, during this period, patrols assisted and brought back 1,389 people who were in danger while attempting to leave the country, thereby avoiding new [word indistinct]. According to the document, within the coming days the relatives of those who have left the nation through similar means will receive information from the Committees of Defense of the Revolution which has been collected on Cubans being kept in the camps in and outside the United States. It also was confirmed that the Cuban Foreign Ministry has asked the U.S. representatives on the island to allow the people being kept in these camps to write to their relatives. Up until now, no reply to this request has been received.

Envoy Believes Rafter Talks Eased Tensions With U.S.

PA1709234794 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2230 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Mexico, 16 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Abelardo Curbelo Padron, Cuban ambassador to Mexico, said today that the unity of the Cuban people is keeping the island from becoming the victim of a military invasion and that the island's situation cannot be compared to that of Haiti.

"Cuba and Haiti are two completely different cases," said the Cuban diplomat, who pointed out that the blockade imposed on the island by the United States more than 30 years ago has led to greater unity both domestically and abroad.

The Cuban ambassador, interviewed in this capital within the framework of the celebrations marking the 184th anniversary of Mexican Independence, underscored that the "rafters" crisis allowed an easing of tensions between Cuba and the United States.

The crisis of the "rafters," as the Cuban emigrants who have fled the island aboard flimsy boats in the last few weeks are known, led to a meeting in New York City by delegations from the two countries to negotiate bilateral immigration agreements.

According to the agreements, the Cuban Government pledged to stop the rafters' departures, while Washington agreed to grant up to 20,000 visas annually for Cubans anxious to migrate to the United States.

Unofficial estimates indicate that slightly more than 30,000 Cubans left their country in August in what is believed to be the largest exodus from the island since 125,000 people migrated from Mariel Port in 1980.

Following the New York negotiations, relations between the United States and Cuba "created a new situation, making the parties believe they must ponder a bit on the conflict to relieve the atmosphere," Curbelo remarked.

The Cuban diplomat said: "If the United States complies with the agreement to grant at least 20,000 visas annually, it will be more than enough to meet the demand for departures from the island."

He explained that there is already an easing of tensions, which is why we can think that relations between the Havana and Washington governments are tending to improve.

On 14 September, Ricardo Alarcon, president of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government (parliament), said in this city that there is optimism about the lifting of the U.S. blockade of the island.

General Humberto Ortega, Nicaraguan Armed Forces chief, who is also visiting this city, pointed out that "a great step was taken to ease bilateral relations" with the agreement on the "rafters."

"Through the lifting of the blockade, Cubans must be given the opportunity to show their creativity and to solve the big problems currently troubling them," the Nicaraguan minister [title as received] added.

White House Has 'Opened a Door to Hell' in Guantanamo

FL1609215694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Commentary by Roger Ricardo Ruiz published in GRANMA; from the "National Radio News"]

[Text] The proverb, "In a small town, hell is hotter" [En pueblo chiquito, infierno grande], describes the complicated situation that has been created on Guantanamo Naval Base which confines some 23,000 Cuban rafters, 14,000 Haitians, and where armed troops continue to conduct training exercises for the eventual invasion of Haiti. The journalist is asking: Who can guarantee that one of the soldiers does not fire his weapon and kick off a ruckus, causing the rest of the troops to begin shooting their weapons, close to the Cuban outpost, putting them in grave danger? Who can guarantee, asks Ricardo Ruiz,

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given cultural and idiosyncratic differences, that an altercation will not arise between the Haitians and Cuban rafters? He adds: What would happen then? After analyzing the Cuban rafters' frustration with being denied their goal of making it to the United States, and on top of it all, finding themselves in a concentration camp, the commentator asks: Who can make sure that the camp will not riot?

The commentary also alludes to the minefields surrounding the base that the United States maintains on Cuban territory against the will of the Cuban people and the possibility of an outbreak of epidemics due to the sanitation and promiscuity levels that exist there.

After enumerating these and other issues, Roger Ricardo states: All this makes the situation in Guantanamo even more complex. It not only complicates matters inside Guantanamo, but represents a danger to the security of Cuba. He concludes his commentary by stating: The White House, far from creating paradise's waiting room for their guests at the Guantanamo Naval Base, has opened a door to Hell. They acted impulsively and the situation escalated rapidly.

'Straight Talk' on U.S. Immigration Accord

FL1609120794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Sep 94

["Straight Talk" program with Roberto Cavada of Radio Rebelde, host Osvaldo Rodriguez, and Carlos Santana Ojeda of Radio Rebelde]

[Text] [Santana] Who got more out of this agreement, Cuba or the United States?

[Rodriguez] I think that is what the people on the streets are asking themselves. I would say that we both won. For the first time the United States was able to break their mental blockade, a mental blockade that has led them to implement an unfair policy. It is a policy in which they themselves have been caught. That is already something positive for them, they have broken that blockade.

[Cavada, interrupting] I believe that within their mental blockade, [rephrases] being able to distance themselves from the extreme right wing in Miami, who during a very long time since 1966, pressured the U.S. Government with the Cuban Adjustment Act; now that act is weakened by the spirit of this agreement between Cuba and the United States.

[Rodriguez] Yes, for the first time the United States is thinking about resolving their own national problems by negotiating a solution with Cuba. Up to now the only thing they had done was increase their problems. I have evaluated positive aspects for the United States. Now then, for Cuba to sit and negotiate on a level field with the United States, that is already a victory for us. For the first time they sat and listened to us and on the same level, as we had always wanted. Furthermore, for the first time in 35 years a serious dialogue has begun with the U.S. Government. These are the two things: that the U.S. Government has seen the necessity of analyzing this problem seriously and that Cuba has been able to sit and negotiate on the same level with the United States, to begin a dialogue after the Cold War has ended in the world. I believe that these are the two great things that we have obtained through this agreement. I do not know if Cavada agrees with me.

[Cavada] Yes, I agree totally with what you have just said. Also that this joint communique not only reflects the nine days that both delegations debated in New York but that now there are other paths open. In 45 days the agreement calls for another meeting to verify compliance with the agreement. I have hopes that new issues will be brought forth, as well.

[Santana] This is the first important diplomatic agreement signed by Cuba and the United States in the last 10 years. In your opinion, what significance does this have in future relations between Cuba and the United States?

[Cavada] I believe that it is very significant. Osvaldo has just said that for the first time in 35 years both sides sat down to talk. The United States respected Cuba's position and respected the Cuban people's decision to follow a project without interference by the United States. On a diplomatic level, this has been a great success. We put all our cards on the table. They know the U.S. Government's position. In this first step, having reached an agreement on the migratory issue, which was a situation affecting them very much, the United States has demonstrated a disposition to continue to advance on other issues. There are issues such as communications between Cuba and the United States, which is something that affects the Cuban community in the United States and their relatives here. There is a great deal of interest and insistence on the part of U.S. businessmen to explore possibilities of investing in Cuba, THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE WASHINGTON POST, and THE [WALL STREET] JOURNAL have published reports on the issue. Therefore, on a diplomatic level the U.S. Government is being pressured to continue advancing in these serious negotiations with the U.S. Government [as heard].

[Santana] What do you think about that, Osvaldo?

[Rodriguez] I would like to add some other thoughts that could be on the minds of many Cubans. From this point on, do we see a clear possibility of improving our relations with the United States? Of course, everyone is also thinking about the possibility of seeing the blockade lifted. We see the effects of the blockade on ourselves, our homes, and our families. I believe that for the first time a serious dialogue has been initiated, as I said earlier. That serious dialogue could reach results that would normalize the coexistence between two neighbors, living so close one to the other.

During these 35 years, we have never seen that possibility so near: the possibility of sitting and discussing all

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of these problems, as Cavada pointed out—communications, U.S. businessmen investing in Cuba, and trade between Cuba and the United States. I believe that the blockade could be affected. However, we must bear in mind that the blockade cannot be broken in one day. We must remember how they lifted the blockade in Vietnam. When they announced the lifting of the blockade in Vietnam, the United States had already invested nearly $3 billion in Vietnam. The process is slow because the issue is complicated. To break this complex issue is something complicated.

[Santana] According to news agency reports that we have just received here at Radio Rebelde this migratory agreement represents a good point for President Clinton, in regards to the forthcoming November elections. Now then, from what I see the Cuban issue is still a matter of internal politics in the United States. Cavada, my question is how does this agreement affect the relations between Cuba and the United States?

[Cavada] Well, even though the news agency report informs us of that, this joint communique is a very risky decision by President Clinton. I do not know Osvaldo's opinion. President Clinton has congressional elections in November in several states. In Florida Bush's son and one of Clinton's brothers-in-law are running for governor [as heard—Hugh Rodham is running for the U.S. Senate]. Clinton is currently at his lowest level of popularity in the country. He has had experience, which almost cost him the governorship of Arkansas, through a problem with the Cuban community. The Cuban issue to President Clinton is like a ghost, even when he was governor. That is why I said that reaching this agreement on the migratory issue was a risky decision.

The agreement calls for halting and not provoking any more illegal immigration [as heard]. That was one of banners that the extreme right wing in Miami waved, that right wing that is still there headed by the Cuban-American National Foundation and by Congressmen Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Lincoln Diaz-Balart. Now they appear to be worried about the decision that President Clinton has made. They stated this publicly, the day after the agreement was signed. They have even said that inevitably this path leads to an understanding between Cuba and the United States, I am quoting Mrs. Ros-Lehtinen. I do not know what Osvaldo thinks about all this.

[Rodriguez] Well, I think that there is one point where we disagree. I do believe that this information, this report from AFP, stating that this migratory agreement that Cuba and the United States reached last Friday establishes a good point for President Clinton in the forthcoming November elections. Why do I think that this report is right? We must remember that the ghost of massive migration is something that scares the people of the United States. We must remember that President Carter lost any chance to be reelected due the migratory onslaught of Mariel. As you noted, today President Clinton is in a lull on the popularity polls and he is looking for a new image. He is trying to resolve the Haitian problem, which is unresolved so far. Without recourse to arms, without using troops he has resolved the very serious problem of the Cuban exodus. This is a point in his favor for the forthcoming elections. I believe that this agreement will increase his popularity. Therefore, I think that it does benefit him.

Just now, when Carlitos asked what were the benefits for each side, I think that it benefits us because we are going to resolve one of our problems: the drama of immigration and of these people that want to reunite their families or that leave for economic reasons. They will resolve their problem by legalizing the migratory influx just like they do with everyone else. There are not going to be any concessions, they will treat them just like they do other people from around the world.

[Cavada] Osvaldo, Clinton still has a problem. How is he going to respond to those families in Miami about the Cubans that are in the Guantanamo Naval Base, the ones they said they were not going to accept? I believe that is a point against Clinton.

[Santana] I would like to comment on that point. Cavada has already said what the U.S. extreme right wing feels. What influence does this agreement have within the Cuban community in Miami?

[Rodriguez] Well, we have already had some information about that. The Cuban community in Miami is requesting a solution to the situation of those Cubans at the Guantanamo Naval Base and in Panama. What the agreement calls for is only extending visas to those that had requested visas earlier. Those that want to return voluntarily to Cuba will be accepted after they have gone through the pertinent steps via consular offices. The rest are left somewhat adrift. Now the United States has to decide what is going to be done with them. There is where the pressure of relatives in Miami comes in.

The Cuban families have also begun putting pressure on something that is not in the agreement. Alarcon explained in a recent interview on "This Very Day" that he understood why it was not in the agreement: the measures implemented to prohibit money being sent to relatives....

[Cavada, interrupting] The 20 August measures.

[Rodriguez] The 20 August measures. Reducing the number of flights between Cuba and Miami. The Cuban community has reacted violently against this because it does not appear in the agreement. That is a problem that the United States will have to resolve. I do not believe that this agreement resolves that problem. This agreement simply resolved the exodus. I believe that the exodus is going to stop. I am convinced of that, as a matter of fact, the Cuban Government's exhortation and the 72 hours given to the people so they can think matters over—that there will not be confiscation of rafts

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but after that period there will be confiscation and implementation of the law—that will halt the exodus from here to there. We will have to wait and see if they are going to comply by protecting their own borders.

[Santana] Thank you, Roberto Cavada and Osvaldo Rodriguez.

Raul Castro on Internal Situation

PA1809015194 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0905 GMT 17 Sep 94

["Exclusive" interview with General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces and second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, by PRENSA LATINA reporter Luis Baez, at the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces in Havana on 11 September]

[Text] For some time I had told Comrade Raul of my intention to interview him. At the risk of appearing insolent, I would remind him of my wish whenever I saw him at various functions. He invariably responded with a smile, a friendly pat on the shoulder, and a "We shall see, Luis."

The last time, persisting with my objective, I said: "Minister, I want to have a different kind of interview." He looked at me sternly, in his typically direct, straightforward way, and in his deep voice asked: "What do you mean by different?"

I excitedly explained that I did not plan to talk about military issues, the base, international policy, and so on. Those are the issues people usually bring up in light of his status as general of the Army and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR].

I would like to talk about everyday issues, I said, the problems out on the street; what people talk about. As if I had reached my goal and in a definitive tone, I concluded by saying: "I want to interview you as the second secretary of the Central Committee."

My enthusiasm was short-lived and flickered out upon hearing the well-known, "We shall see, Luis," and receiving the friendly pat on the shoulder.

Several weeks after that chat, and with no warning, a telephone call woke me very early on the morning of Sunday, 11 September. I was asked, on behalf of the minister of the FAR, to remain available.

At about 1730 that afternoon came another call. By 1800 I was inside a rather large, modest office on the fourth floor of the MINFAR [Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces] building. There nothing in the office but a chest of drawers and two work tables.

Raul graciously showed me his office. A photograph stands out among several other small objects he cherishes. It is a picture of two of his closest friends: Jose Luis Tasende and Antonio (Nico) Lopez.

After some loose comments and a reminder to me not to limit any of my questions, we sat down to talk.

[Baez] What was the main objective of the three Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] meetings you presided over in July?

[Castro] I did not preside over them alone. Several other members of the Politburo led them, specifically during the last meeting, when we had the presence of the commander in chief.

The main objective was to study deficiencies in our work that were not related to the imperialist blockade or the special period. We separated the subjective factors from the objective; those that depend on us, on our performance, on our capability to fight, on our political capability, and on our creative initiatives.

These meetings were not intended to recount the situation but to look for a way to face the current problems. This clearly shows that our methods must change, that the circumstances have changed, that the situation is entirely different. As a result, the cadres must develop an aggressiveness toward their work and perfect their style, their methods, and their relationship with the people.

They must convince themselves that they must face problems that seemingly have no solution and that those problems do have solutions because not everything depends on material goods.

These meetings have resulted in specific, complex tasks that must be implemented promptly, basically in the economic sector and especially in terms of providing food to the population. The cadres must also heed political-ideological problems in a prioritized and thoughtful manner.

The time for slogans is over. This is the time to face problems, but face them with dignity, by closing ranks with the masses more than ever, more than ever.

We will never stop fighting the problems. We must gain experience from the positive and negative circumstances.

We must do all this without wasting an hour, a minute, or a second. We are struggling against time, and the worst thing to do would be to sit back and do nothing. Inertia is the worst thing; the worst thing is to say that "something cannot be done."

[Baez] What have you learned from these meetings?

[Castro] There is a principle that one must follow to succeed: From every mistake, every deficiency—regardless of its proportions—the only advantage we can reap is the careful and in-depth assessment of the mistake, the deficiency, the causes that triggered it, whether they are objective or subjective. If we make a mistake and look the other way and keep going, we will repeat the same mistake.

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Some say that man is the only animal that runs into the same obstacle twice. I say that Cubans run into the same obstacle over a dozen times. As Maximo Gomez said: Cubans either do not reach the goal or they pass it.

We lack a systematic approach for beginning and finishing a project. If we are in the middle of doing something and something else comes along, we drop what we are doing and begin doing something else. There are too many examples of this.

Columbus discovered us 500 years ago, but we have truly been the masters of our own fate for these 35 years of the revolution. What were we before? We were a Spanish colony, a refined Yankee colony for some 60 years until 1 January 1959. In short, we are just now learning to govern ourselves.

[Baez] What is the main task at this moment?

[Castro] To survive. To get out of the hole and resume the fight.

It is not the first time this country has had to do it. We had to do it after the 1868 Independence War, the Little War [La Guerra Chiquita], La Fernandina, the War of 1895, the Machado dictatorship, its collapse and the ensuing revolution, which fell through—as Raul Roa said—and the Moncada assault.

The fight begins again after the imprisonment, the landing of the Granma, and it picks up after Alegria de Pio, the mortal siege in Alto de Espinosa, and Eutimio Guerra's treason, a conflict that was on the verge of destroying us several times.

It started again with 300 rifles to defeat the most powerful enemy offensive with more than 10,000 troops supported by tanks, planes, and ships, against the First Sierra Maestra Front.

At the triumph of the revolution we saw the need to exchange all our Western technology for a socialist one, but now the socialist bloc is blown up in pieces and we suddenly see ourselves without spare parts for our technology and must start all over again.

We have to draw experiences from every beginning and every conclusion of a stage, and from the resumption of every other stage because we are never going to stop struggling. We have to draw experiences from the positive and negative points.

[Baez] How do you evaluate the training of the cadres for this great battle which the revolution is now facing?

[Castro] I am giving it primary importance. We have to provide advice, assistance, and support to the cadres as long as mistakes are not intentionally made with opportunism and lies.

In addition to showing their loyalty and confidence in the party, we have to encourage in them the initiative, the fighting spirit, the need to create, to do things increasingly better in a more revitalized manner. Courage is important in all walks of life.

We cannot repress people who come up with a courageous idea as long as it has some logic. We must criticize those who never come up with any ideas, the cadres that do not think.

The person who makes a mistake when taking the initiative has to be advised how to do it better next time so the error is not repeated, but we must never discourage them. If Fidel had not been courageous, we would not be here today.

On the other hand, we must not be ashamed of mistakes. There is no revolution without mistakes. We have to be ashamed when we do not have the courage to make an in-depth analysis of our mistakes. We have to draw useful experience from each of our mistakes.

The importance of the cadres is fundamental and a clear policy of support, promotion, or replacement when it is appropriate. [sentence as received] Almost all of us know something about boxing. First, there is a protection count at the first knockdown. Then comes the second knockdown. What happens when the third comes? Knockout.

[Baez] Sometimes they are kept in their posts too long.

[Castro] That is a mistake. I am among those who think that a first secretary in a municipality or in a province must not be there longer than five years. There are exceptional cases in which two or three years could be added to their term. If he is very good, we could send him to a more complex province.

It is not advisable to allow cadres to deteriorate in their posts, especially party cadres. We must replace them as they progress, because we would lose prestige and authority if we removed them when they are moving downward.

[Baez] Are you satisfied with the party's work?

[Castro] Fidel has always taught us that the revolutionary must be a permanent nonconformist and must never be satisfied with what has been done but must seek ways to do much more. The party has played, continues to play, and must play a much more important role.

On certain occasions, the opinion of the first secretary is imposed in the province or in the municipality, but it is necessary to provoke discrepancies among his subordinates. We must not accept a certain criteria just because it comes from above or because that is what the majority thinks.

One must plan according to what one feels. It is important to learn how to disagree at the proper time and place. We must eliminate hallway comments. As I said in the National Assembly: At the proper place, at the proper time, and in the correct manner.

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The role of any leader, of whatever level, is to anticipate. He must be one step ahead of events. Events have to be taken by their "long nose" and led where we want to go. We must not allow events to lead us.

Our enemies are saying we must create another party. Any other party would be the party of imperialism, which we will never permit. What we must do is review all our work within the party, from top to bottom, and make it more democratic, more efficient.

[Baez] Occasionally, those who disagree have been termed conflictive and even counterrevolutionary.

[Castro] Yes, I know. On occasion, this has been the only country in the world where there have been no contradictions. Having a contradiction is not opposition. We do not agree with many of our foreign friends on the meaning of "democracy." They have theirs, and we have ours, which we must encourage.

I have a wonderful family, a wonderful wife, yet there are contradictions of all kinds in my home. We discuss those contradictions as a married couple, with our children, and even with our grandchildren, as we already have a grandson who is 10.

A boss who does not create contradiction with his subordinates will fail, nothing will surpass collective decisions, a consensus.

We must have differences and discussions at our meetings. We must learn to disagree with our bosses in the appropriate places, times, and ways, because we all know that while we say nothing at the meetings, we say a lot in the hallways.

We must change the shameful behavior of talking behind backs and of telling lies. All that must be blown to pieces. We must start telling each other the truth, face to face, looking each other straight in the eye.

We revolutionaries must seek out problems and be willing to pay the price without a second thought.

A boss who only likes a subordinate who obeys him, or a subordinate who is always smiling and always says yes without thinking, who is only waiting to know what the boss thinks to tell him what he wants to hear, is a fool, and a boss who acts that way is even more of a fool.

A foolish boss looks for foolish subordinates, and those foolish subordinates look for other subordinates who are even more foolish. This produces a chain of foolish, super-foolish, and extremely foolish individuals.

[Baez] Disagreement has its price, Minister.

[Castro] That is true, Luis. There is still the risk of subtle retaliation from bosses in any sector. I know of comrades who have had the courage to disagree and have not remained in their jobs very long. They have been transferred to another position. They are removed, which is the easiest way out.

You can be sure that anyone discovered to be taking reprisals will suffer the consequences. That can never be the party's or the government's style of work, under any circumstance.

We want our work to be eternal, not temporary. Toward that end, we must consolidate a bulwark of that which our commander in chief has always set the highest example: honesty.

[Baez] Sometimes, however, we have had cadres coexisting with lies and flattery, who have often tried to justify their attitude by saying it is not right to create problems "at the top," to give you headaches...

[Castro] That is false, very false. Liars and flatterers must be fought as if they were our worst enemy. Be more afraid of a flatterer than of a CIA agent. The CIA agent has to work well in order to be promoted and to do the most damage. The flatterer does more damage than a CIA agent, whoever he may be and at whatever level.

Those who are always trying to guess what their boss is thinking so they can think just like him, scare him away like death itself, as if they were the plague.

We have to definitively divorce ourselves from lies, the one we carry inside, the one we unconsciously say, and the one we consciously say in meetings.

Over 30 years ago, the commander in chief was referring to this topic when he said: "We were forced to marry a lie and to live with it, and it seems the world sinks when we hear the truth as if it were not worthwhile to let the world sink before we continued [sentence incomplete as received]

[Baez] I think another one of our great deficiencies we is that when it comes to reviewing problems, we always look for an excuse to "justify" them.

[Castro] That is constant. Every time we have a little cyclone, a drought, or a flood, we talk about it for three years. There is no food because there is no water. There is no food because there was too much water. If you think about it, it is a passive form of thinking and acting, which would lead us to say that the reason for such and such a problem in the eastern provinces "was because of Hurricane Flora, even though the hurricane passed through here 30 years ago," as I ironically told a municipal leader.

What we have to do is work. We must encourage the fighting spirit in the face of adversity. We must make the masses assume this attitude. You want a good example? Guantanamo.

Guantanamo, despite the three floods—May and November 1993 and May 1994, some even more damaging than Hurricane Flora—is the province in which food production has grown the most in recent years. Why? Because the party, headed by its first secretary, Juan Carlos Robinson, convened the masses and told them: "We are not going to cry here; we are not going to

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remember every five minutes what happened here. We are going to forget the catastrophes, heal the wounds, and meet our objectives."

The people of Guantanamo, assuming a heroic attitude, like all our people, answered that call.

[Baez] Indiscipline is also a problem that concerns us.

[Castro] That is one of the things we must end, regardless of the cost.

We must impose financial discipline regardless of the cost. We must end social indiscipline in the country. We must eliminate our own indiscipline. There should be no impunity, and anyone who does not perform his duties must be replaced.

There is great indiscipline in all areas. That is a vital question. Everything that we want to do must be done in order and according to plan.

No one is free from indiscipline. He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone. Nor can I forget, following this line of thought, the indiscipline of some who refuse to accept others just because they are younger. We are going to do something immediately about people who act like that.

Because of our post, we know more than most people think. There are those who believe themselves to be untouchable; a friend of this person but not of that person; I will accept him but not him. There must be discipline, starting with us.

I know very well what I am talking about. Those who are fooling around must not fool around any longer. Let me state here, and without getting sentimental about it, that I am over the hill now. I turned 63 in June, and I am not about to let anyone get away with anything; not even myself, and more so the chief.

[Baez] Some believe that we revolutionaries are a minority.

[Castro] We are not a minority. What we need to do is unite and lead our people into combat. We have to come out of our state of despair resulting from the disappearance of the socialist bloc.

What we need now is quality. We demand quality. We have to balance forces, unite them, and lead them to combat.

The present situation shows us once again the kind of people we have, the people's mood in light of the moral and political situation, and the things that have often upset them without justification.

[Baez] Have we lost our sensitivity?

[Castro] Not just our sensitivity, some have even lost their shame. It is disgraceful to see things like this in Havana. Say you give someone a ride, and they say, "I am sick." "Oh, so you want a lift to hospital." "Yes, but take me to the military hospital, not the civilian one."

That is disgraceful. Medical care is one of the major achievements of the revolution. We could have better hospitals, and we will have no doubt about them.

Of the patients treated at military hospitals, 80 percent are civilians. The other 20 percent are FAR soldiers, Interior Ministry personnel, and their dependents. The conditions in these hospitals are different, despite the fact that all hospitals have the same resources. This is not my opinion, mind you; the people say it. Now, why does this happen?

We must learn how to distinguish the more sensitive issues. What could be more sensitive than the illness or a funeral of a relative, whether close or distant. This is a person, a human being. All of us suffer a loss in the family at one time or another. Sometimes we have to wait hours and hours on end to bury our loved one.

That has nothing to do with the special period. That has to do with a lack of sensitivity and with red tape. Is there anything sadder than the state of our rest homes for the elderly? Why can they not be like the ones the nuns run? The commander in chief has highlighted their proverbial spirit of dedication and human fraternity.

There are achievements we must fight to maintain, or at any rate to ensure that they are the least affected: health, education, sports, and child care. There are many other revolutionary achievements, but these are sacred. We must defend them. We must be sensitive, We must put neglect and defeat behind us.

[Baez] The FAR is playing a pivotal role in these difficult times.

[Castro] We have worked very hard, in a united manner and in compliance with the orders of our commander in chief in the implementation of the war doctrine of all Cubans. This has enabled us to become an inexpugnable bastion.

We have also promoted and will continue to promote the assistance given by regular Army units in the production and harvest of fruits and vegetables for Army consumption and that of the population.

It is well-known that the work done by one of our soldiers is equal to that done by three civilian workers [movilizados]. Contrary to popular belief, this is not because of the command but because of the organization. Many people say: "The guards are giving the orders," but they do not know that our union of civilian workers has over 100,000 members. They go to the fields with the soldiers and produce as much as the soldiers, and there is not a lieutenant or captain telling them what to do.

The same holds true for the members of the Youth Labor Army. These youths are a model of efficiency and

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sacrifice. They perform a task throughout the island that deserves the greatest admiration.

There is no need to be concerned by the fact that the guards—as people usually call us—have become involved in these problems, because we were communists before we became soldiers, and we will always be communists.

I am aware that there is undue concern over the pivotal role of the FAR. This role is not coincidental; it is part of a plan. Our specific task is defense, but defense includes everything. Right now it involves providing food for our people, which along with sugar production, has been designated by our commander in chief as the main strategic task.

Today, the FAR and the MININT [Ministry of the Interior]—whose militants constitute the most visible, everyday example of loyalty and defense of the motherland—accomplish their specific tasks in the main directorates and face the basic problems we must resolve.

It does not matter if the problems are too big, because if we do not know how to differentiate the basic or main issues from the minor ones, the situation will defeat us. As we can see, there are political, administrative, and other cadres that are overwhelmed by the circumstances because they do not know where to begin so they sit around waiting for miracles. Those kind are still around.

The FAR currently has a high level of stock—of all types—to help resolve major economic problems.

[Baez] What is the reason for this?

[Castro] The reason is that we have been careful; we have not squandered. From the onset of the special period, we increased our stock through saving and increasing efficiency. We often have to make loans to the economy, up to an established limit—the so- called red line. There is a red line which cannot be touched, regardless of the situation.

The FAR has been very respectful toward all the other institutions and all leaders at every level. The first party secretaries and other officials have been exceptional witnesses of this conduct.

What truly constitutes a lack of precaution is not having taken advantage of the years before the special period to create the greatest possible state stock and to stash things that would have come in very handy in the current situation. We have erected a small warehouse on Fifth Avenue, where Brigadier General Sio Wong is. This state stock is sacred, and the commander in chief is the only one who can dispose of it.

We are at war today and the only thing left is to hear the gunshots. This is a war more serious than the other one, because when they start to shoot, we all know what to do.

This is a more subtle war: It is economic, political, diplomatic, accompanied by great pressure at a global level in a unipolar world.

The revolution cannot be lost. The consequences of losing the revolution would have to be measured in terms of centuries of struggle. Conditions have been created for that. I do not speak of years or dozens of years. With full knowledge of the facts, I say centuries of struggle, because not a single Yankee will enter the bastions in the mountains. They could bomb and raid the area with helicopters, special troops, and so on, but anyone who enters the area stays.

If the revolution were to be lost, we would lose our independence, and the price our people would pay would be unthinkable.

We must be convinced that we have to pay whatever price is necessary. We are living in a time in which the enemy either takes the sword away from us or we let it drop. We are not going to drop it or let is be taken away from us. There will always be a Cuban who will be able to keep the sword up high.

[Baez] What is the objective of the governmental commission created for the city of Havana?

[Castro] It has the mission of supporting, in a flexible and dynamic manner, the solution of the most serious problems adversely affecting the country's capital.

It is headed by Companero Carlos Lage, secretary of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers. It includes the agriculture, basic industry, transportation, construction, public health, and domestic trade ministers, as well as the president of the Hydraulic Resources Institute.

The president of the Assembly of the People's Government of the city of Havana and representatives of MINFAR and MININT will participate in the meetings held by the commission members in a permanent manner. In accordance with the problems reviewed, other ministers or representatives from the state's central administration organizations with decisionmaking power may be invited.

This government commission is meeting regularly to review the existing situation, to adopt decisions demanded by the current times, and to present the appropriate report to the first and second secretary of the party's Central Committee.

The members of this commission know they have to erase from their vocabulary the phrase: "It cannot be done." Anyone who says "it cannot be done" knows that along with the phrase he must turn in his resignation.

Division General Carlos Fernandez Gondin, first deputy minister, was selected to represent the MININT in this working group. We appointed Division General Ulises Rosales, chief of the general staff, to represent the FAR. He is a member of the Politburo, hero of the Republic, and deputy at the National Assembly representing central Havana Municipality. He is a hardworking companero of great prestige and experience in solving these problems.

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[Baez] What measures are being taken to solve the food problem?

[Castro] First, we must accept an undeniable fact: We are a poor country. It is fundamental that we realize and understand this, and it should be taken into consideration when making any analysis or plan.

We have had to purchase many goods abroad that can be produced in our country. For example, some grains and various types of beans can be produced in Cuba, but over the past 35 years we have had to invest $1.2 billion to purchase those products abroad. Honestly, this is very hard, but at the same time it shows that the revolution has spared no effort to feed the people.

Each time the subject of production comes up, I recall an incident I have never forgotten. The INRA [National Institute for Agrarian Reform] used to be in this same building where the FAR is now located. In this same office—on the fourth floor—where this interview is taking place, were the offices of the director of that institution. I am talking about the early sixties.

One afternoon, I came to visit him and saw that he had set aside a few bags of malanga root. When I was leaving, he said to me: "Minister, take a bag of malanga root home." Then he added: "Next year you will see that there will be so much food that the old ladies will not be able to carry their food baskets."

[Baez] Did you take the malanga root with you?

[Castro] (smiling) Of course I did. Thirty years have passed since then, and we are still waiting to see the old ladies unable to carry their food baskets.

Today the political, military and ideological problem in our country is finding food. That is our main task from any viewpoint. In order to ease the situation, we hope to put the agricultural-livestock market into operation in the near future.

This topic has been seriously discussed at the party's territorial meetings, which I mentioned at the beginning of this interview. People have unanimously agreed with the implementation of this measure, which has the support of our commander in chief.

[Baez] How will this agrarian market operate?

[Castro] It will be a market conditioned on our current circumstances.

It will be based on the idea that anyone linked to agrarian activities—state enterprises and farms, UBPC [Basic Cooperative Production Units], CPA [Agricultural-Livestock Cooperative], EJT [Youth Labor Army], CCS [expansion unknown], and small farmers will be able to sell what they produce after meeting their state quotas, and prices will not be government regulated. In any case, prices will be lower than those on the black market, and there will be more pressure from the people. Basically, supply and demand will play a key role, as well as the regulations and taxes that will be applied. We must be clear about one thing: If there is food for the people, then the risks are of little concern.

This idea must be carefully developed without haste. Many times good ideas are lost when they are implemented due to our lack of controls and systematic plans.

Our socialism has persisted because of its profound nationalistic (autoctono) nature, which has been enriched by our realities. Therefore, all the measures we implement for its perfection will strengthen it, especially when those measures are aimed at solving vital needs such as our people's nutrition.

I am a communist. Fidel made me a communist. I joined the Socialist (Communist) Youth before the attack on the Moncada Barracks. I remember I was held prisoner at the Castillo del Principe, after which I was badly beaten. My crime was visiting several communist countries.

With Fidel's permission, I joined the Socialist Youth. I was backed by Flavio Bravo—who passed away—and Raul Valdes, who is still alive.

We were in the middle of the Cold War. The Korean war had ended (190-1953). Fidel agreed that I would join, if that was what I wanted.

I was a militant with the 26 July movement and with the Communist Youth of the PSP [Popular Socialist Party]. I betrayed neither of them. Instead, I helped unite them, as Fidel had told me. Many years later they merged into one. I was also a fiend of all the revolutionary directorate leaders, some of whom died. There was Jose Antonio Echeverria, Juan Pedro Carbo Servia, and Machadito.

A communist should be known for his objective assessment of the reality he faces and for the correct way in which he accomplishes the task, even amid the most difficult circumstances.

[Baez] What is Raul Castro like in his personal life?

[Castro] A normal, common man, as any fellow countryman. I love my children and my wife very much. I adore my grandchildren. Because of my job, I sometimes go for days without seeing them, but I always try to find time to share with them.

I am loyal to my friends. My first and greatest friend, besides being my boss, teacher, and brother, is Fidel. I have great affection for Almeida, Furri, Ulises, Machadido, Julio Casas, and many other comrades, as well as for the four Army commanders, with whom I have spent good times and bad during these years of struggle. I also feel great affection for my brother Ramon. I call him "Papa Ramon."

For me, friendship cannot exist without principles. Those who lose their principles or ethics cannot have a true friendship; at least among revolutionaries.

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I trust our young. I am also fond of my younger comrades—besides those I mentioned before—such as Carlos Lage and Felipe, just to mention a few; the members of my security team; and my closest aides, the men and women who would make any sacrifice and dedicate all of their time.

I demand a lot of myself. I have always said that there is no judge more severe than our own consciences.

I evaluate what I did every day. I ask myself if I worked well, if I dedicated the right effort to the important things, if I was distracted by secondary issues, where I failed, or who I mistreated with an answer or a statement. The Jesuits taught me this conscience examination, as they call it. This is something we revolutionaries should do every day, and we must be severe.

I have the most important of judges. This judge is not on the Supreme Court. It is not the attorney general or the nucleus of the PCC. My most severe judge is my own conscience.

My head is a volcano from which ideas erupt. Coffee cannot keep me awake. Problems keep me awake. I am totally convinced, however, that we will solve these problems. We Cubans, united under the guidance of the party and Fidel, will solve our problems, and no one should doubt it.

Raul Castro Defends Revolution

PA1709045494 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0334 GMT 17 Sep 94

["Exclusive" interview with Raul Castro Ruz, first vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, FAR; in Havana on 16 September]

[Text] Havana, 16 Sep (PL)—Raul Castro, first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, today called for the defense of the island's social project because "if the revolution were to be lost, we would lose our independence."

In an exclusive interview with PRENSA LATINA, the second secretary of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party (PCC), said that if the Cuban revolution were to fail, "the price our people would pay would be unthinkable."

"We must be convinced that we have to pay whatever price is necessary. We are living in a time in which the enemy either takes the sword away from us or we let it drop. We are not going to drop it or let it be taken away from us," Castro said, warning that Cuban revolutionaries are not part of the minority.

According to Castro, who is also an Army general and minister of the FAR, a huge majority of Cubans support the social system established in 1959. He said that "what we need to do is unite and lead our people into combat. We have to come out of our state of despair resulting from the disappearance of the socialist bloc," he said.

He said the current period demands quality, not quantity. "We have to balance forces, unite them, and lead them to combat" to save the success gained in 35 years of revolution, particularly those of health, education, sports, and infant care.

According to him, the essential mission imposed on us in the present is subsistence. "We have to come out of our depression and resume the struggle," he said.

Noting the historical balance of the periods in which the revolution faced adversity, he noted that in the 1959 victory, Cuba saw the need to exchange its Western technology for a socialist one. Now the socialist bloc "is blown up in pieces and we suddenly see ourselves without spare parts for our technology and must start all over again."

As for the recent party meetings in which the country's economic and social situation was reviewed, Raul Castro said he believes in encouraging political leaders to take the initiative and have a fighting spirit. He believes in the need to encourage them to make things better and better, but always with the mission as a goal.

"The role of any leader, of whatever level, is to anticipate. He must be one step ahead of events. Events have to be taken by their "long nose" and led where we want to go. We must not allow events to lead us."

"The time for slogans is over. This is the time to face problems, but face them with dignity, by closing ranks with the masses," he said. Castro underscored the urgency of doing all this "without wasting an hour, a minute, or a second."

He added that we are in a struggle against time, and the worst thing to do would be to sit back and do nothing. "Inertia is the worst thing; the worst thing is to say "that something cannot be done." [quotation marks as received]

Regarding the promotion of several PCC cadres, he said that it is a mistake to keep them in a post for too long. "It is not advisable to allow cadres to deteriorate in their posts, especially party cadres. We must replace them as they progress, because we would lose prestige and authority if we removed them when they are moving downward."

In the same vein, he insisted on the need to identify problems, confront difficulties, find bold solutions, and not fear contradiction, because they are not the enemy, because "a boss who does not create contradiction with his subordinates will fail, nothing will surpass collective decisions, a consensus."

Castro also called for a debate on issues at the appropriate place, time, and form, and to blow into pieces "the shameful behavior of talking behind backs and telling lies."

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"We revolutionaries must seek out problems and be willing to pay the price without a second thought," Castro said. He admitted that at times there is still the risk that there will be subtle retaliation against those who hold opinions that differ from their superiors.

Raul Castro categorically dismissed the possibility of creating a new political party in Cuba as enemies of the revolution have been suggesting. "What we must do is review all our work within the party, from top to bottom, and make it more democratic, more efficient," he added.

In another part of the interview, Castro demanded the imposition of financial and social discipline in the country "regardless of the cost," eliminate guarantees, and replace those who do not fulfill their duties.

As for the role played by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba, the minister recognized the support given by Army regular units in the cultivation and harvesting of fruits and vegetables for their own consumption and for the people, but he dismissed unjustified concern over the central role of this corps.

"Our specific task is defense, but defense includes everything. Right now it involves providing food for our people, which along with sugar production, has been designated by our commander in chief as the main strategic task."

"We are at war today and the only thing left is to hear the gunshots. This is a war more serious than the other one, because when they start to shoot, we all know what to do."

"This is a more subtle war: It is economic, political, diplomatic, accompanied by great pressure at a global level in a unipolar world," the first Cuban vice president pointed out. He added that the revolution cannot be lost.

"The consequences of losing the revolution would have to be measured in terms of centuries of struggle," Raul Castro said during his interview with PRENSA LATINA.

UN Human Rights Commissioner Postpones Trip

PA1909025994 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0106 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 18 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina reported today that Ecuadoran Jose Ayala Lazo, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, has postponed his working visit to Cuba, which was scheduled to take place this month.

"The trip has not been canceled, he just changed the date because of problems with his agenda," Robaina added.

Cuban authorities announced two months ago that they had invited Ayala, who had expressed an interest in conducting a tour. The tour was scheduled for today.

The high commissioner for human rights was a post approved by the UN General Assembly last year upon the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in 1993.

According to previous announcements, Herrera Lazo will make his visit without any previous conditions.

Cuba continues to refuse to allow Swede Carl-Johan Groth, the UN Human Rights' special rapporteur, to enter its territory.

Groth, appointed to his post three years ago, presents an annual report to the Human Rights Commission based on foreign reports on the observance of human rights in Cuba.

Commission Reviewing Bilateral Cooperation With Mexico

PA1609232094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1611 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 16 Sep (NOTIMEX)—The Governments of Cuba and Mexico today began here the broadest simultaneous review of their overall bilateral relations during the past six years, in preparation for the sixth session of the general mixed commission, scheduled to begin Monday.

The technical phase of the meeting began this Friday, headed by Jorge Bolano, Cuban vice minister of foreign relations, and Federico Urruchua, general director for Latin America of the Mexican Foreign Ministry.

The mixed commission will meet next Monday and Tuesday, chaired by Roberto Robaina and Manuel Tello Macias, Cuban and Mexican foreign ministers respectively.

The bilateral commission was created by both governments in 1982 after which it met every two or three years. But the fifth and most recent meeting was held in Mexico in 1988.

Next week's meeting will also be the highest level meeting between the two countries since the official visit to Havana by Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari in June, during which he met with Cuban President Fidel Castro.

The mixed commission will evaluate the political dialogue between the two governments and will review plans for cooperation in the economic, commercial, and financial areas, as well as in fishing, tourism, cultural exchanges, sports, health, communications, transportation, and the struggle against drug trafficking.

Mexico is Cuba's main partner in cooperation in educational, cultural, scientific-technical areas and in sports; it is also Cuba's fourth highest supplier of consumer goods and the highest source of individual foreign investments in that Caribbean country.

The sixth meeting of the mixed commission will coincide with the 20th anniversary of the signing of the first

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scientific-technical agreement between the two countries, to be commemorated on 26 September.

Another commission, which will review and update the scientific- technical bilateral working plan, has been holding simultaneous sessions since Wednesday.

The new plan will be signed by Ernesto Melendez, Cuban minister of foreign investment and economic cooperation and Fausto Alzati, general director of the Mexican National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT).

Mexico Forms Joint Enterprise With Cuban Petroleum

PA1909002494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2306 GMT 18 Sep 94

[By Gerardo Arreola]

[Text] Havana, 18 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Cuba and Mexico confirmed today that they will form a joint petroleum enterprise to operate the island's biggest refinery through a debt exchange.

Foreign Secretary Manuel Tello said "the negotiation concluded satisfactorily." Tello arrived in Havana on a two-day official visit.

"I have been instructed" to sign the agreement, Tello said but did not disclose the details of the operation. He noted, however, that it will be made public on Tuesday.

Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, who greeted his Mexican counterpart at Jose Marti International Airport, also confirmed that he will sign the agreement but did not provide any further details.

The agreement will be formally established by CUPET [Cuban Petroleum], the public corporation in charge of Cuba's international petroleum operations, and Mex-Petrol, a subsidiary of the state-owned Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX).

The two firms reached a financial agreement and finalized technical tests, confirming the option to operate a refinery in Cienfuegos, 297 km southeast of Havana.

Oil industry sources told NOTIMEX that the financial agreement is based on a mechanism according to which Mexico will provide fresh cash and will absorb assets in exchange for debt ("swaps") [preceding word in English].

The original plan, the formal negotiation of which began in March, involved an investment of approximately $200 million.

The petroleum agreement follows investments by private Mexican concerns in telecommunications, cement, tourism, textiles, and glass industries in Cuba.

The binational consortium will finish construction of a refinery that is incomplete and partially paralyzed due to a lack of fuel and maintenance.

According to the sources, the plant will supply by-products for the local market and will export any surplus crude under the best commercial conditions, without excluding Mexican oil supplies.

Experts of the two countries concluded a three-month analysis according to which the plant will be able to process a combination of several crudes such as "Isthmus," Mexico's (light) export petroleum, and "Maya" (heavy).

Mexico sells oil by-products to Cuba through 30-day letters of credit. In 1993, total sales of Mexican crude to the island amounted to $92 million.

Cuba has been experiencing a grave fuel shortage after the abrupt suspension of imports from the former Soviet Union. Soviet oil imports went from 13 million tons annually to less than half that amount.

Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Arrives in Havana

FL1909021194 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Sep 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Ambassador Manuel Tello, Mexican secretary of Foreign Relations, arrived today in Cuba, honoring an invitation by the Cuban Foreign Ministry. Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina met the distinguished visitor at the Jose Marti International Airport. Also present at the airport was Mexican ambassador to Havana, Carlos Tello Macias.

During his stay in Cuba, which will extend until 21 September, the Mexican secretary of Foreign Relations will participate in the sixth meeting of the Cuba-Mexico intergovernmental commission, at which they will analyze the progress and parameters of the ties between the two countries on the economy, cooperation in scientific-technological development, finance, and exchange. Tello will also meet with high-ranking personalities of the Cuban Government and will tour places of economic, scientific, and social interest in the capital.

[Begin recording] It is a pleasure to again be in Cuba. I was here recently, accompanying President Salinas. Today I am here for the joint commission meeting which begins tomorrow. I know, as I am sure Roberto does, that specific results will be attained from this meeting, which we plan to announce to you on Tuesday evening when we hold a news conference. I will limit my initial comments to that, and will take advantage of the media to send greetings on behalf of the Government and people of Mexico to the Cuban people, whom we love so much and with whom we have so many ties. We will maintain those ties and close relations with Cuba, and will strengthen them in every way possible. [end recording]

On Mexico's position regarding Cuba in the upcoming UN General Assembly, Manuel Tello commented:

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[Begin Tello recording] We believe that the Cuban Government, through its permanent delegation to the United Nations, will prepare a draft resolution on the embargo issue. That draft has been made in consultation with the Latin American group. I cannot see why this year they would follow a different procedure. If that is the case, the Cuban Government can count on Mexico's support as has been the case in the last two resolutions that the assembly has adopted. [end recording]

Undoubtedly, this will be an excellent opportunity to examine the progress achieved by the two nations in the past, and to seek new ways and means of extending and strengthening our traditional relations.

Havana Water System Repairs in Progress

FL1609131594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Report by correspondent Pepe Suarez; from the "National Radio News"]

[Text] Real progress can be seen in the improvement of Havana's water system thanks to the brigades working with the Provincial Water and Sewer Office workers, the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and the leadership of Havana's social micro brigades. To date, only Arroyo Naranjo, San Miguel del Padron, Diez de Octubre, Boyeros, and Playa Municipalities are directly benefiting from this renovation of the water system, which will result in the elimination of more than 1 million leaks within one month. In every part of Havana where the brigades specializing in water works are engaged, a command post has been established under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba and the government who oversee the optimal utilization of material resources allocated by the state for this high priority program. The same is true of the quality of the repairs and decisions about areas to be repaired in each neighborhood. In statements to National Radio News, Santiago Simon, first engineer of the Provincial Office of Water and Sewer Systems in Havana, declared that the 15 brigades currently working will continue their efforts and eventually cover all 15 municipalities of Havana in order to save some of the estimated 50 percent of the water pumped from supply wells that is lost.

This undertaking is critical since by minimizing water loss, eliminating breaks and leaks, and adding up the savings with the state consumers and all citizens in mind, Havana will be in better shape to deal with pending water supply rationing due to the intense drought that has depleted Havana's natural water reserves. Given the great sensitivity to the issue of the citizenry and government, this afternoon the Provincial Assembly of the Peoples Party will examine the current results and outline a future strategy. In this effort and in order to improve water pumping and distribution, on 16 September the filtering plant will undergo electrical repairs and the Agriguanabo wells will stop pumping water in order to repair leaks. Therefore water service will be cut off to eastern Havana from 1000 GMT to 1900 GMT. On the west side, there will be shortages in Playa and La Lisa Municipalities. Once the repairs are completed, the supply of water during normal scheduled hours will be gradually reestablished in each area of Villa San Cristobal of Havana.

Havana's APPP Discusses Water Shortages, Transportation

FL1609150994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Sep 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] The eighth special session of Havana City's People's Government Provincial Assembly [APPP] was held yesterday at the Universal Hall of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. The agenda included the sensitive subjects of the water supply to the population and the reorganization of the urban transportation system. The assistants learned about the make up of the governmental commission chaired by Carlos Lage to support the efforts of the provincial government in solving the most serious problems affecting the capital and with the greatest impact on the population's living conditions.

During the analysis on the deficiencies in potable water supply and the problems with the water management systems of the city, the financial and material resources granted by the state's central administration for the repairs and new investments in areas of wells and pumping stations were disclosed. Furthermore, participants were informed of an upcoming agreement with the Ministry of Basic Industry that will guarantee the supply of electricity for this strategic service which takes the vital liquid to homes in the capital.

With regard to the reorganization of the urban transportation system, the APPP studied and approved the project presented by the Ministry of Transportation and its provincial office in Havana. Correspondent Pepe Suarez has more information on the changes in the urban transportation system.

[Begin Suarez recording] The new organizational concept that changes the current urban transportation system in Havana, includes a main system and two complimentary subsystems according to the project of the Ministry of Transportation approved yesterday at Havana City's APPP session. The main system is called Metro Bus and it includes 260 vehicles of the train-bus type from five stations in the outskirts of the city with seven routes that will cover all four cardinal points and the center of the city with bus stops at every 1,500 and 2,000 meters.

The first subsystem includes 11 fast routes with the (Icarus) type articulated buses and 83 more routes with varied vehicles and those buses obtained from donations abroad with stops at every 700 and 1,500 meters.

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The second subsystem includes the urban and suburban trains, the taxi-buses, the ferries that cross the bay, and the cycle-buses, as well as the taxis, and the workers' transportation.

The new urban transportation system in the nation's capital is already being applied in its first phase and will be completely implemented and in action by the first quarter of 1995 in order to achieve an effective response to 60 percent of the total demand on passenger transportation in Havana City. With the guarantees for new investments in 1995, we will then be able to take new actions that will allow for greater satisfaction in the transportation needs of the people in the capital, who at the moment use bicycles as a temporary and effective vehicle for short distances. [end recording]

Drinking Water Priority Outranks Nutrition, Transport

FL1609224494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Commentary by Susana Tesoro; from the "National Radio News"]

[Text] Discouraging predictions indicate with solid arguments that nature is about to offer mankind the opportunity to confirm that water is a vital liquid. The United Nations designated the 80's the decade of potable water and environmental sanitation, considering that half the world's population, more than 2 billion men and women, do not have sufficient amounts of water; and more than 13 percent of them do not have sanitation services. Nevertheless, potable water is vital for life, health care, agricultural and industrial production. We are well into the 90's and there are still serious problems of water shortages, and what is worse, waste.

Yesterday afternoon, the People's Government Provincial Assembly [APPP] of Havana City met in a special session and, among other topics, discussed the difficult situation with the water supply in the capital. According to the information presented by some delegates and presidents of people's councils, the water crisis in the capital is one of the most complicated situations the city has ever had to face. The problem was described as very critical, even of higher priority than nutrition, transportation, and others.

To face this situation, measures have been employed, resources have been allotted, and new organizations will be emplaced so that the little water there is can reach the people and is not lost through leaks or improper distribution.

This is not the first time—but we hope it is the last—that special brigades were formed in the capital to repair leaks, that there has been talk of organizational measures, and that strict control over the tanker trucks [piperos] is promised, which divert this resource and charge for it, and now even do so in dollars.

We know that the country's situation is different from that in the past, but the people expect an answer to this problem as Comrade Maria Ducas, deputy and president of a People's Council in Marianao, said: We are not talking about another report, we are talking about water.

Report Details Exportability of Vaccines

PA1609231594 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1551 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Report by Ricardo Potts]

[Text] Havana, 12 Sep (PL)—It was reported here today that the vaccines against the BC-type meningococcic meningitis and hepatitis constitute valuable exportable goods, which are already generating tens of millions of dollars annually.

Upon his return from a South American tour, Doctor Gustavo Sierra, Finlay Institute [Instituto Finlay] vice president and one of the creators of the antimeningococcic BC vaccine, told PRENSA LATINA that these results prove the feasibility of the Caribbean island's scientific program.

He said that we have been able to transform science into a true production force, capable of making significant socioeconomic contributions.

Dr. Sierra pointed out that the commercial results we are achieving in Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, and other Southern Cone countries on this continent, as well as the prospects in other regions of the world, prove that science can become a production force.

Brazil alone purchased 7.5 million doses of the meningococcic BC vaccine to control an epidemic that broke out in Rio de Janeiro this year. This vaccine is also being applied, registered, or traded in other countries.

The vaccine has been used for many years in Colombia and Uruguay, countries where its sales have increased. Argentina recently started applying it both at the state and private levels, and private institutions have started using it in Paraguay.

In addition, a pilot vaccination program is under way in Chile, and Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela are in the final stage of the process to register the vaccine. Furthermore, Nicaragua already started selling the vaccine.

The Finlay Institute official underscored that meningococcic meningitis is on the rise in Latin America and that there already is an awareness that our vaccines help control the disease efficiently.

The scientist also underscored that if the Cuban vaccine is used as part of a coherent and mass program to counteract the outbreaks and is also used to control the disease in the age groups most affected as well as in children from high-risk groups, the disease could be eradicated in the near future.

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The Cuban national vaccine program, headed by Dr. Sierra, is divided in 25 investigation institutes employing more than 2,500 scientists and specialists who are continuously working to discover new immunization agents.

Among these agents we have the cholera vaccine, which is at an advanced stage of development. There are three different immunization agents, covering several types of cholera, as promising as the other agents being studied in other laboratories in the world.

Another equally ambitious objective of the Finlay Institute investigators is to find an immunization agent capable of simultaneously treating multiple diarrhoetic ailments common to Third World nations and to create a universal vaccine against the four serotypes of dengue.

As for the AIDS vaccine, Sierra said that Cuban experts are not being discouraged by a wave of pessimism spreading throughout the world scientific community.

This pessimistic attitude was evident during the AIDS World Congress held in Yokohama, Japan, due to the recent failures of some attempts to find a cure in the United States and other countries.

Sierra pointed out that the main problems lie in the mechanism to attack the HIV, which cripples the body's defense system, and in the ability to change the virus antigens.

The others difficulties are of the technological type, but we are prepared to [words indistinct], the Cuban scientist said.

Dr. Sierra concluded that we will continue our work; we are slowly, yet relentlessly making progress, convinced that we will have the vaccine sooner of later, adding that perhaps, we will not be the first ones to have it, but we will not be the last ones either; we will not stop until we have it.

Bahamas

Ministers Comment on Departure of Troops for Haiti

FL1609192994 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1130 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Government officials and family members of the officers were on hand at Nassau International Airport this morning to see the officers depart the capital. Tamika Newbold reports:

[Begin recording] [Newbold] There seemed to be a mixture of moods before the 11 Defense Force troopers left Nassau International Airport at 0600 this morning aboard an American Eagle flight destined for Miami and eventually Puerto Rico. But before the actual departure, while sharing the last few moments with family members and their friends, the first group of troopers to leave the capital were told by the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, the Honorable Orville Turnquest, that he has every confidence that they will execute their duties to the best of their abilities. Minister Turnquest added that he is proud that the Bahamas is among the countries participating in such an historic event.

[Turnquest] I'd just like thank these men on behalf of the Government of the Bahamas and on behalf of all Bahamians for representing us in this exercise. We are quite satisfied that they will do us proud. We all pray for their safety, that they will acquit themselves well and return to us and their families as well and as happy as they are leaving us.

[Newbold] Minister of public safety and transport, the Honorable Arlington Butler, echoed the sentiments of the deputy prime minister. He assured the troops and their families that they go with the prayers of the nation.

[Butler] I hope that you and family members recognize that you are taking part in indeed an historic occasion. As minister responsible for the Defense Force, I find today an interesting day, and I hope that we who are taking part in a peacekeeping exercise for the first time in our history will recognize that it is a necessary involvement because it directly affects us. Anything we do and the reason why we are going, it is because we as a people recognize that with the restoration of democracy in Haiti we will be relieved of some of the burdens which we now bear. And so these men are taking on very, very important significance in the development of our own country.

We are proud of you as parents and as wives, and as children for being supportive of your men as they leave.

[Newbold] Commandant of the Defense Force Mr. Leon Smith also wished the troops Godspeed. He announced that a three-man team will be set up by the Defense Force to supervise the relay of information between these troops and their families. The team includes Commander (Davy Rolls), Lieutenant Commander (Godfey Rolls) and Lt. (Edison Rolls).

The charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy was also on hand to wish the troops bon voyage. He said that no one is certain of what is going to happen, but he is proud and pleased that the Bahamas have decided to join the United States in the significant effort aimed at restoring democracy to Haiti.

I am Tamika Newbold for ZNS news. [end recording]

Troop Departure, Composition for Haiti Operation Detailed

FL1609145394 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1130 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Thirty-five Defense Force officers began leaving home this morning for Puerto Rico. The Bahamas will join the multinational force as peace keepers following the invasion of Haiti. Prime Minister Ingraham made it perfectly clear last evening that Bahamians will not participate in any combat role. He said the Bahamas will

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go into Haiti [rephrases] will not go into Haiti until and unless the threat of danger is over.

Following is the schedule of departures of marines who will join the United Nations mission to Haiti: 11 will depart Nassau International Airport at 0600 on Friday on American Eagle for Miami where they will switch to American Airlines for a flight to Puerto Rico; 10 marines will depart the airport at 1100 on American Eagle for Miami where they will catch an American Airlines flight to Puerto Rico; and 14 marines will depart the airport at 1300 on American Eagle for Miami where they will board an American Airlines flight to Puerto Rico.

The officers and marines are drawn from the Royal Bahamas Defense Force Military Operations Platoon, and will be led by Senior Lieutenant (Clifford Sciavallo). Sr. Lt. (Philip Clark) will serve as transport office in the Caricom [Caribbean Community] battalion headquarters. Sub Lt. (Sean Pinder) is the platoon commander and Petty Officer (Mario Bain) is the platoon sergeant. All of these officers have had extensive training in the operations of weapons, in physical combat, and in command theory and practice. The 33 [as heard] marines have been trained locally and overseas with the United States, United Kingdom, Canadian, and Caribbean forces in infantry tactics and small arms. The Bahamaian contingent will serve in the Caricom force on a three-month rotation basis.

The United Nations mission in Haiti will comprise a United States-led invasion force, which will eliminate organized hostilities, and will be followed by a peacekeeping operation in which the Bahamas Defense Force will participate as a component of the Caricom contingent. The peacekeeping operation is designed to facilitate the return to functional democracy in Haiti and to provide the environment and resources for training and the return of normalcy to social and economic life.

The Caricom contingent will comprise troops from Antigua, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, and will be led by Lt. Colonel Lynton Graham of the Jamaican Defense Force. Lt. Col. George Gomez of the Guyana Defense Force is the battalion commander. The Caricom forces will undergo intensive preparatory training and equipping at Camp Santiago in Puerto Rico for a subsequent deployment to Haiti. Most of the military equipment and supplies will be provided by the United States.

The Bahamas will also send a contingent of 13 policemen from the Royal Bahamas Police Force to Haiti as part of the peackeeping operation. Ours is a civilian police force without combat training. The participation of Bahamian policemen will therefore come at a later phase in the peacekeeping operations when the potential for armed combat would have been minimized, and the focus will have turned to the training of the Haitian civilian police force.

Ingraham Departs for U.S., Comments on Haiti

FL1609140694 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1130 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister the Right Honorable Hubert Ingraham along with other Caribbean leaders have been invited to Washington, D.C., for a meeting with President Clinton to discuss the Haitian crisis. Prime Minister Ingraham departed for Washington, D.C., last evening. Debbie Bartlett reports:

[Begin recording] [Bartlett] An invitation to the White House intensified and adjusted the schedule of Prime Minister Ingraham from a cabinet meeting to the airport: his destination—Washington, D.C. The purpose of the meeting in Washington is to discuss with President Clinton and members of the multinational coalition force the restoration of democracy in Haiti.

By chance be [as heard] that you are also going to talk about the impact that Haitian migration has had on the Bahamas?

[Ingraham] Absolutely. You know from the Bahamas' point of view it is in our national security interests for there to be a resolution to the Haitian crisis, and for democracy to be restored together with the return of President Aristide. That presents the Bahamas with the one opportunity we have to significantly impact upon the number of illegal immigrants in the Bahamas.

[Bartlett] There are two segments of participation. The first is the combative and the second is the noncombative phase; that's the phase in which the Bahamas will participate. Preparations have begun and 35 Defense Force officers will leave on Friday morning for training in Puerto Rico.

[Ingraham] They will spend two weeks at training and then be posted for a maximum of 90 days, three months, and we will participate in the post-invasion exercise; that is, after the situation in Haiti has been stabilized our Defense Force officers will help to keep the peace in Haiti. Later on we will also arrange for some police officers to be involved in the peacekeeping exercise. No Bahamians will participate in the exercise until or unless we are reasonably comfortable and satisfied that the situation in regards to order has been restored and is conducive to the safety and wellbeing of our people.

[Bartlett] U.S. Armed Forces will also be stationed in Great Inagua.

[Ingraham] The Bahamas have agreed to permit some American planes to land and take off from the island of Great Inagua and the airport up there for the purpose of refuel and [word indistinct]. Seven of such planes came into the Bahamas last evening. We expect others will come in. In addition to the planes taking off and landing, we've also agreed for the Americans to be able to post in Inagua a small force to be able to control their situation.

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[Bartlett] Prime Minister Ingraham says there are three major goals that the government is working to see realized.

[Ingraham] Our goal in the Bahamas is: one, the restoration in Haiti, the establishment of a climate conducive to deter Haitians to come to the Bahamas en route to the United States, and thirdly, to afford us the opportunity and the accomodation by which we can return to Haiti thousands of illegal immigrants who live in our country at great cost to the Bahamian people. We ourselves shall make available some assistance for the new government of Haiti once this military repressive dictatorship is removed from a (?distance) for the purpose of repatriating and causing the people who are returned from the Bahamas to be able to settle in.

[Bartlett] I'm Debbie Bartlett for ZNS news. [end recording]

Cayman Islands

Cuban Refugees Continue Arriving; Repatriation Planned

FL1709124094 Kingston RJR Network in English 0300 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Another 182 Cubans arrived in the Cayman Islands yesterday. The latest batch of Cubans brought the total number of refugees being cared for by the government to (?1,136). Acting chief [words indistinct] said the arrival figure is now (?10.8) percent of the islands' population of 30,000.

Interviews are currently being conducted by immigration officers to determine which Cubans have a legitimate claim to political refugee status. Those deemed to be economic [word indistinct] will be repatriated. The Cayman Government had announced that would be repatriating Cuban refugees after the U.S. Government [words indistinct].

Dominican Republic

Military Tightens Security Along Haitian Border

PA1709014794 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0019 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 16 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Military authorities in the Dominican Republic stated here today that their units have tightened security along the Haitian border to prevent an exodus that could result from a U.S. invasion.

"We have supreme orders on what we are to do in such an event, and we have everything under control here," the commander of the Dominican troops posted in the border region told foreign newsmen.

Some 15,000 Dominican Army troops have been deployed along the border between the two countries that share the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. The measures are part of efforts to enforce the international embargo against the de facto Haitian regime.

The sources confirmed that hundreds of policemen are expected to arrive Saturday in Dominican border towns where they will patrol the area in view of an imminent invasion led by the United States. After the UN Security Council voted on the use of force to expel the military leaders who overthrew President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Washington began preparing for an invasion which could take place in the coming days.

Canadian Observers Pull Back From Border With Haiti

LD1809141994 Montreal Radio Canada International in English 1330 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] A group of Canadian military observers have been called back from their post on the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The eight soldiers have been stationed in the Dominican border town of Jamani to observe Dominican forces maintaining the embargo against Haiti. The commander of the Canadian group, Lieutenant Colonel Bud Gorman, said the soldiers were ordered to pull back from the town to their base in the capital of Santo Domingo as a precautionary measure. The Canadians were part of a 48-member observer team stationed in the area since 10 September.

Haiti

Clinton's 15 Sep Address Summarized

FL1609174794 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The speech of American President Bill Clinton is the news highlight this morning. The U.S. President dedicated a 15-minute speech to convince American public opinion of the necessity to intervene in Haiti. In this speech, the U.S. President sent a warning to the Haitian military that it could be ousted by force if it does not step down right now. During his speech, four warships were a few kilometers outside the capital's harbor. Here is a summary of this speech by Rothschild Francois, Junior:

[Begin recording] [Francois] The message of the United States to the Haitian military is clear: Your time is up; step down right now or we will force you from power, said Bill Clinton, according to excerpts from the speech to the nation that he made last night. The head of the United States also asserted that he received the promise that Haitian President-in-exile Aristide will withdraw when his mandate is over as provided for in the Haitian Constitution.

The main reason for his speech was to convince public opinion and Congress of the grounds for a military action in Haiti. Surveys show that a majority of Americans are opposed to such an operation.

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We have exhausted diplomacy, he pointed out, accusing General Cedras and the army of having led a reign of terror by executing children, raping women, killing priests. While the dictators were more and more pushed to their limit, atrocities have become more and more brutal, added Bill Clinton. Allow me to be clear: Gen. Cedras and his accomplices alone are responsible for the suffering and the terrible human tragedy. The American president pointed out that he received the support of many countries in the framework of this possible military action in Haiti. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Bill Clinton in fact started a real countdown before an armed intervention in Haiti. He has decided to give the order despite the reluctance of American public opinion and of the Congress.

In his speech to the nation, live from the Oval Office, the American President did not publicly set an ultimatum to the Haitian military, but his special adviser in charge of the Haiti issue, William Gray, let it be understood that a precise deadline will be given to the military in private. While an American amada is evident off Haiti's coast, the United States ambassador in Port-au-Prince, William Lacy Swing, must formally convey this message to the Haitian leaders. The answer of Gen. Cedras, which is already known, left little alternative to confrontation: If there is an invasion, I am not leaving. I will stay to defend my country, he said on CBS. The head of the Haitian Army, however, hoped that bloodshed could still be avoided through dialogue.

De Facto Foreign Minister Calls Clinton Statements 'Visibly Untrue'

FL1609202794 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] There is already a reaction to [Clinton's 15 September] message. It is that of Haitian Foreign Minister Charles David. Reacting to the statements by Bill Clinton on Haiti last night, Haitian Foreign Affairs Minister Charles David calls those statements unfounded. The foreign affairs minister of the de facto Jonassaint government explains that this is aimed at justifying an invasion of Haiti.

[Begin recording, in Creole] [David] This is an incredible reaction because a series of things said here are visibly untrue.

[Unidentified journalist] As you say they are not true, we must interrupt you for a moment, Mr. David. As head of Haitian diplomacy, what do you find untrue in Clinton's speech?

[David] What I find untrue.... Well, I will take the time during which I have been the head of the diplomatic mission, that is, since the Jonassaint government came to power. He began saying that a series of people were sent here as emissaries. I recalled recently that no emissary has come here. I asked the UN secretary general to tell me with whom they met. They just could not answer me.

[Journalist] Minister David, we remind you that you are referring to something that happened recently. But prior to your appointment as head of diplomacy, [words indistinct].

[David] [words indistinct] I will answer by citing facts that happened recently. They accuse the government and the Army of having killed Father Vincent, which they know is not true. Well, then [pauses]... he spoke of the Governors Island agreement. Everybody knows why the Governors Island agreement failed—because the two parties.... [pauses] first, there is a party that did not acknowledge... [pauses] that did not respect a number of points. We will go further up: They tell us [words indistinct]. I am giving you an emergency reaction because I have not yet finished analyzing the speech. It will take me some time to analyze it.

Now, something is very clear. My first reaction is very clear: It is that the President of the United States has decided to invade a country because he knows he is stronger than us. He has decided to invade a country supposedly to restore democracy. [Words indistinct] when he first came to power, when he met Prime Minister Mulroney, the same president said that the president who had been overthrown did not behave democratically. Then, is democracy a person? Is democracy an institution? Is democracy a state of mind? They will bring... [pauses] also, he said that U.S. soldiers will come here... [words indistinct] I will not say they will stay for long, but they are out for a walk. They said so in Somalia as well. Then, I do not believe... [pauses] I do not want to evoke reactions that can [words indistinct] emotionalism; I simply want to say that this speech was made to restore the credibility of President Clinton because he made a certain number of commitments and those things [words indistinct] his international credibility. I simply believe that the people in the United States have only one side of the story. [end recording]

This statment by the Haitian minister of foreign affairs came a few hours after the speech by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

PRENSA LATINA Report

PA1609163694 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1349 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 16 Sep (PL)—Tension has heightened considerably in Haiti in light of an imminent U.S. invasion, which was confirmed by President Bill Clinton and whose explanations were described as mistaken by the Haitian foreign minister.

Charles David, foreign minister for the de facto government, today refuted the excuses used last night by Clinton to launch an armed action intended to remove the Haitian military from power.

In a message delivered from the White House, the U.S. President links the direct intervention in Haiti with national security, regional stability, and the promotion of democracy.

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However, in statements to a radio station heard in Santo Domingo, David said that Clinton's message contains many mistakes and that his real objective is to regain credibility. David said that the U.S. people are not aware of what is going on in Haiti.

Likewise, David denied that the de facto government and the military are responsible for the daily violence in that small Caribbean country, despite the constant charges made by Haitian and international organizations that have presented proof of innumerable human rights violations.

During his 15-minute message delivered last night, Clinton said that all diplomatic efforts have been exhausted and given the stubbornness of the military leadership to leave power, there is no other way out but to launch an offensive to remove them.

Shortly after President Clinton delivered his message, General Raoul Cedras challenged the head of the White House. Cedras told a U.S. television station that he will lead the Army in the battle against the invader.

The Haitians had not recovered from the effects of Clinton's speech and Cedras' response when a startling incident made them fear that the U.S. invasion had been launched. A Hercules C-130 flew over Port-au-Prince and dropped something making everyone think that it was aerial assault.

Calm returned when the people quickly realized that only two parachutes had been dropped from the plane. At the end of each parachute there was a bundle, and it was later learned that they contained portable radios for the people to listen for the broadcast of bulletins should an invasion occur.

However, the Haitian radio stations heard in Santo Domingo report that the situation is tense among the Haitians who believe that the announced U.S. military invasion, approved by the United Nations, will be launched this weekend.

U.S. Aircraft Drop Radios Over Port-au-Prince

FL1609180794 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Excerpt] U.S. aircraft last night dropped boxes containing radios over Port-au-Prince about one hour after President Bill Clinton summoned the Haitian military rulers to leave power, we learned from reliable sources. According to those sources, the police have allegedly recovered a significant portion of the boxes, and it is not known whether they contained things other than radios. In fact, these last few days, U.S. aircraft have been frequently dropping leaflets over Port-au-Prince. The leaflets announce the return of constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was overthrown nearly three years ago by the military and who is now in exile in Washington. Last night, one of the airplanes flew at a low altitude over a major hotel in the capital, an AFP correspondent noted. That is psychological war, a Haitian told AFP.

In his speech, Clinton reaffirmed that the three main Haitian military leaders including General [Raoul] Cedras, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; Chief of the General Staff Philipe Biamby, and Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Michel Francois should leave immediately or else the United States would intervene to drive them out of power by force.

In an interview with the cable television network CNN, Mr. William Gray, special representative of President Clinton for Haiti, asserted that U.S. Ambassador William Swing had been authorized to meet with those three men to set up the manner of their departure. Washington is allegedly ready to grant them safe conduct and to guarantee them immunity against prosecutions under the condition that they agree to leave the country. However, in statements made on the U.S. TV network CBS after the speech of Bill Clinton, Gen. Cedras asserted that he was getting ready to fight beside his people.

The U.S. Embassy spokesman in Port-au-Prince pointed out that the United States was ready to deal separately with the three Haitian military leaders. According to some rumors, the three men do not form a compact bloc. The Americans consider Lt. Col. Joseph Michel Francois more interested than Gen. Cedras and Gen. Biamby in an agreement. [passage omitted]

'Thousands' Said Abandoning Port-au-Prince

PA1609170594 Paris AFP in Spanish 1531 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 16 Sep (AFP)—AFP has observed that thousands of Haitians living in poor neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince on Friday began to abandon the capital for the interior of the country, fearing violence during the U.S. invasion, which people believe is imminent.

The buses that travel to the main cities in northern and southern Haiti were this morning packed with people who sought to travel to relatives' homes in the interior of the country.

All of the people interviewed by AFP said they were leaving or sending their children to the homes of relatives in the countryside, because they believe the capital runs the greatest danger if there is a U.S. invasion.

Most of the Haitian military headquarters are in the capital, and the presence of garrisons and installations increases the people's fear. At the same time, the rank and file soldiers live mainly in the poor neighborhoods and shantytowns.

Some people fear last-minute reprisals from the "attaches," (civilian assistants feared by the police and army) [as received], as well as bombings and fighting during the landing of U.S. intervention forces.

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A man dressed in civilian clothes, who said he was a soldier, told AFP he has sent his family to the area of Cayes (the country's third most important city, 200 km southwest of the capital), and that he will remain alone in Port-au-Prince.

Jamaica's Seaga Says Haitian Leaders Want To Resign

PA1609161394 Paris AFP in Spanish 1426 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Kingston, Jamaica, 16 Sep (AFP)—Haitian military leaders are willing to resign to avoid a U.S.-led invasion, former Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga said on Friday.

Nevertheless, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said that Washington first wants to see "credible signs" that the military leaders agree to leave power.

"There will be a last-minute initiative, which will contain a considerable part of the aspects of the proposal presented by the Haitian military leaders," said Seaga, who is acting as intermediary between the de facto regime and Washington.

Nevertheless, in Port-au-Prince, General Philippe Biamby, Haitian Army chief of staff, categorically denied the military junta had established contact with Seaga to negotiate an honorable departure from power.

"It is totally false!" Biamby stated in an interview granted to private Radio Metropole.

On Thursday, Seaga had said the Haitian junta had offered to resign in exchange for the promise that there will be no invasion and no reprisals against some 600 Haitian military personnel. [passage omitted]

Biamby Denies Reported Seaga Statements

FL1609172094 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1300 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Report by Rothchild Francois]

[Text] We are near the Haitian Armed Forces headquarters where the members of the patriotic resistance groups are undergoing military training. They say that they are ready to fight along with the Haitian military. They are asking the army to give them weapons in order to face any possible American aggression.

I just conducted an exclusive interview with the head of the Haitian Army General Staff, General Philip Biamby, who denied the statements of former Prime Minister Edward Seaga. Here is General Biamby at the Radio Metropole microphone:

[Begin Biamby recording] I do not see why someone from the army would phone the former Jamaican prime minister. What does the former Jamaican prime minister have to do with this crisis? At least if he were the Jamaican prime minister, we could understand. First, it is totally false. Second, I think that it would be very wrong to choose a Jamaican to negotiate for us while the Jamaicans right now, as a black nation, a brother nation, are currently training with other troups in order to invade us. [Words indistinct] the only thing that I can add is that the richest and most powerful country is coming to attack the poorest and weakest country—I do not understand that. We will resist with [words indistinct]. However, I want to say that after committing genocide with this criminal embargo for 36 months, they want to come to exterminate us with military force. We are just waiting. God is good. [end recording]

Those were statements made by Gen. Philip Biamby, who was participating in the training sessions with the members of patriotic resistance groups who are still in front of the Haitian Army headquarters. After their daily training, they are asking the army headquarters to give them weapons in view of a possible American or multinational intervention in Haiti. In any case, they asserted that they were ready to fight along with the Haitian Armed Forces.

This was mobile 20 from the Haitian Armed Forces headquarters for Radio Metropole.

Refuses To Relinquish Power; Ready to Resist

PA1609173594 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1449 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 16 Sep (DPA)—General Philippe Biamby, chief of the Army High General Staff, asserted today that his country's Armed Forces will resist an international military intervention headed by the United States.

"After committing genocide with a criminal embargo that has lasted more than 36 months, the United States wants to exterminate us through the use of force," said Biamby, one of the three main coup leaders, after attending a combat training session in the vicinity of the Army General Headquarters in Port-au-Prince.

The ranking officer confirmed with his assertions the statements made last night by Army Chief Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras, who told the U.S. television network CBS that he is willing to die in combat in the event of a military invasion of Haiti.

Cedras, who underscored the "extraordinary resistance capabilities" of the Haitian people, formulated a new refusal to relinquish power following the message on Haiti by U.S. President Bill Clinton, who warned that force will be used to dislodge the coupists if they do not voluntarily leave.

There were scenes of panic last night in Port-au-Prince when a U.S. Air Force Hercules C-130 airplane flew over the capital dropping parachutes with radio equipment and flyers with the photograph of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The maneuver, the second of its type carried out over Port-au-Prince during the past few days, led to rumors

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among the people regarding the alleged beginning of the military intervention. It caused the people to panic and being buying basic products.

Denies Military Negotiating Withdrawal

PA1609221794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2113 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 16 Sep (EFE)—Haitian Army Chief of Staff Philippe Biamby today denied the Military Command is negotiating its withdrawal through an agreement with the U.S. Government. Biamby rejected a statement by former Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga suggesting that there have been talks with the military leaders to negotiate their withdrawal from power.

In statements to Radio Metropole, Biamby said it would be senseless to negotiate with the former prime minister of a country that is part of the military forces prepared to invade Haiti. Biamby said it is contradictory that Jamaica, "a black and fraternal country, should be part of the Caribbean forces being trained in Puerto Rico to cooperate with the U.S. Army for a possible invasion of Haiti." [passage omitted]

Carter Delegation Arrives; Demonstrations at Airport

FL1709195294 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1715 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] The highlight of the news is the visit of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who has been here in Haiti since 1200. Jimmy Carter has been sent by U.S. President Bill Clinton on a last chance mission in order to attempt to obtain the peaceful departure of the Haitian military. The former American president pointed out on his arrival at the airport that the objective of his mission is a peaceful resolution of the problem of the transfer of power in Haiti. He was welcomed by U.S. Ambassador William Lacy Swing and members of the Jonassaint government, including Ministers of Foreign Affairs Charles David, of the Interior Carl Michel Nicolas, and of Information Jacques Saint-Louis. The Jonassaint government is not recognized by the international community but the members were at the side of Jimmy Carter at the Port-au-Prince International Airport.

Let us listen to the statements made by the former U.S. president, leading this delegation sent by President Clinton:

[Begin Carter recording in English, with passage-by-passage translation into French] This is my eighth visit to Haiti for pleasure and for promoting democracy through elections. But I think that this is the most crucial and important visit I have ever made. Our delegation has come here with the full support of President Clinton. Senator Sam Nunn, the chairman of the Armed Forces Committee of the Senate, is on my right. Colin Powell is on my left. As you know, he is the former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

We have a very simple and very important mission in Haiti: To work with Haitian officials to devise the peaceful implementation of the policies of the United States Government and the resolutions passed by the Security Council of the United Nations; to emphasize a peaceful resolution working closely with the leaders of Haiti. We realize that all the people in Haiti, regardless of their political interests, want peace and freedom and democracy. Our discussions will be confidential and we will let the results of these discussions be known to President Clinton. In the meantime, [word indistinct] we will not have any more statements tonight to the press. Thank you all very much. [end recording]

Those are the statements made by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who is leading this American delegation to Haiti. It should be recalled that Jimmy Carter pointed out that the objective of his mission is a peaceful resolution of the problem of the transfer of power in Haiti. He stressed that it is necessary to have a peaceful application of the resolutions approved by the UN Security Council, including the one demanding the resignation of the three main Haitian military leaders. That is the mission that Jimmy Carter has in Haiti. He is accompanied by former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell and U.S. Senator Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

It should be noted that at the Port-au-Prince airport groups of demonstrators gathered to say no to the return of President-in-exile Aristide to Haiti, and also to say no to any foreign intervention in Haiti.

Cedras, Biamby Meet With Carter; Demonstrations Continue

FL1709210494 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2000 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Talks between the American delegation and the Haitian military have begun. No word has yet come out of the talks. Mr. Carter arrived at Army headquarters with Colin Powell, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Democratic Senator Sam Nunn. The delegation is meeting with General Raoul Cedras and Army high command chief Philip Biamby. It is still unknown if the Port-au-Prince police chief [Michel Francois] is participating in the talks.

It should be noted that several hundred people are demonstrating right now in front of the Army premises to protest against a military intervention in Haiti.

Military Leaders Said To Insist on Two 'Essential' Points

PA1809025194 Paris AFP in Spanish 0205 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 17 Sep (AFP)—The U.S. delegation to Port-au-Prince, headed by former U.S. President

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Jimmy Carter, will announce which of the international community's demands the Haitian military leaders accepted and which they rejected, it was learned Saturday from a well-informed source in the Haitian capital.

According to that source, the military leaders have insisted on two points, which in their opinion are essential: the amnesty previewed in the Governors Island Agreement, and the specific date for the return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the Haitian president in exile.

Military Leaders Reject Deployment of 'Occupation Troops'

PA1909024394 Paris AFP in Spanish 0226 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 18 Sep (AFP)—Haitian military leaders reject the sending of "occupation troops" and reserve the right to discuss the method of deployment of the international military mission, a source close to the Haitian military leaders told AFP this Sunday.

The source considered the extent of the agreement reached with the United States this Sunday to be "relative" [relativo] and stressed that the Haitian military leaders "reserve the right to meet tomorrow (Monday) with the official responsible for the international cooperation mission to negotiate the nature, objectives, methods of operation, and the structures necessary to receive and lodge the mission in question."

Further on Rejection of 'Occupation Troops'

PA1909030694 Paris AFP in Spanish 0245 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 18 Sep (AFP)— Haitian military leaders reject the sending of "occupation troops" and reserve the right to discuss the method of deployment of the international military mission, a source close to the Haitian military leaders told AFP this Sunday.

The source considered the extent of the agreement reached with the United States this Sunday to be "relative" [relativo] and stressed that the Haitian military leaders "reserve the right to meet tomorrow (Monday) with the official responsible for the international cooperation mission to negotiate the nature, objectives, methods of operation, and the structures necessary to receive and lodge the mission in question."

"In no case will (the military) accept the deployment of occupation troops," the source said.

The source added that the three top commanders whose departure is demanded by the international community (Generals Raoul Cedras Philippe Biamby and Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Michel Francois) will resign between 15 and 30 October. [dates as received] [passage omitted]

'Clear Sense of Relief' in Port-au-Prince Over Agreement

PA1909045594 Paris AFP in Spanish 0424 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 18 Sep (AFP)—A clear sense of relief seemed to settle over the people of Port-au-Prince on Sunday night when the peaceful outcome of the Haitian crisis was announced. At the time, the capital appeared normal.

The streets of Port-au-Prince were deserted, as they are every night, because people are afraid to go out. The few people who ventured away from their homes on Sunday night learned the news on local radio stations, but it is unlikely that they were informed of the details of the agreement.

"It is a good thing. We hope there will be some good in it for Haiti," said a night merchant (so-called merchants "who never sleep"). Several people who were near her said: "A failure would have been terrible. [no closing quotation mark as received].

Downtown Port-au-Prince, where the Armed Forces General Headquarters and National Palace (presidency) are located and where several hundred regime supporters demonstrated over the weekend, was almost totally deserted.

Nevertheless, the silence was broken by shots from automatic weapons, which are typically heard every night in various neighborhoods in the capital. These shots are attributed to soldiers and to the "aggregates" [agregados], their civilian aides. At any rate, the shots were no more intense than they have been over the past few nights.

Jonassaint Speaks on Agreement

PA1909050394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0432 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 18 Sep (EFE)— De facto President Emile Jonassaint reported to Haitians today, Sunday, that the Port-au-Prince agreement preserved national dignity and prevented a U.S. invasion that would have resulted in a "blood bath."

Jonassaint said on Haitian television that the agreements were adopted by the United States and Haiti to avoid an imminent invasion that really had already begun.

The president asserted that the agreement involves the lifting of the economic embargo against Haiti and the passage of an amnesty law prior to 15 October.

He conceded that the agreement will not satisfy many of the Haitian people who supported the military junta, but he noted that it was necessary in view of reports that more than 60 planes had already taken off from the United States to bomb Haiti, in addition to the presence of powerful Navy units in Haitian waters.

"Approximately 61 U.S. planes were already on their way," he said, emphasizing that the truth is that despite the "courage" of the Haitian military, the U.S. forces would have crushed the Haitian Army.

In his speech, Jonassaint praised the work of coupist General Raoul Cedras, who has vowed to leave power,

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and described him as "a man who keeps his word," a man who has placed the future of the Haitian nation at the highest priority.

In a contradictory statement, the de facto president maintained the call for legislative elections in December. By that time, constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide should have returned.

In addition, he urged the people to remain calm and "sleep in peace." "It was a difficult decision, but it was made based on the nation's best interests," Jonassaint said in a televised speech to the country that ended with words in Creole, the Haitian native language.

To stress the importance that he gives to the agreement, Jonassaint emphasized that former President Carter, as President Bill Clinton's representative, promised to obtain as soon as possible the suspension of the commercial embargo that the international community imposed on Haiti last year.

Jamaica

Seaga Announces Proposal by Haitian Military Leaders

FL1609235194 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Jamaica's opposition leader, Edward Seaga, says he has received an offer from the military regime in Haiti to act as a mediator in an 11th-hour proposal to find a diplomatic solution to the crisis in Haiti.

[Begin recording] (Two days ago), Dr. Neville (Livermore) and myself were contacted by an intermediary who is well connected to the Haitian military leaders. Different options were put forward with a view to finding a way to stop the invasion and save lives. Several conversations were held. The option which we agreed to put forward was that the Haitian leaders would step down to allow Aristide's return if there was an agreement not to proceed with the invasion, under an undertaking that there would be no retribution against some 600 persons associated with the Haitian regime as appointees or close supporters. Washington was so advised by me. It was not my intention to release this information publicly, but as I understand that NBC has made this public, I consider it best to make the facts known. [end recording]

Haiti Expert: Regime Incapable of 'Consolidating Power'

FL1709011594 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] The head of the French Department of the University of the West Indies [word indistinct] Jamaica, Dr. Michael (Doss), says that the military regime in Haiti is not capable of consolidating power. Dr. (Doss) is considered an expert on Haitian affairs. (Juan Lewis) has more in this report:

[Begin recording] [(Lewis)] Professor (Doss) says previous military regimes in Haiti have seized power, but they were able to consolidate it and even gain international recognition. Professor Doss says intervention by an international force will add to the internal momentum in Haiti. He says Haiti's military leaders [word indistinct] Cedras will not step down as [words indistinct] soldiers shooting him.

[(Doss)] It makes far more sense for General Cedras to dress himself in his full uniform and with a great fanfare hand his sword or his gun—whatever it is—over to a U.S. commander.

[Lewis] Professor (Doss) says Gen. Cedras would say his did this reluctantly and that it was in the best interest of the Haitian people. Professor (Doss) says there are a number of differences between the imminent invasion of Haiti and the 1915 occupation of the country by U.S. forces. He says the 1915 invasion was not sanctioned by the international community. He noted at this time, the approval of the United Nations was sought and so the Americans would not enter (words indistinct) the Haitian parliament as was done in 1915. Professor Doss restated his position that issues of the Haitian political crisis were Jamaica's window of opportunity on hemispheric matters. He cited the inevitability of the intervention and said the Haitian military leaders had been incompetent and brutish. He says by the time they are finished in Haiti, even those who support them will find them intolerable. [end recording]

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Government Reaffirms Opposition to Invasion of Haiti

PA1609224594 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2143 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Sep (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Government today reaffirmed its opposition to the use of force and voiced its hope that a political solution to the Haitian crisis will be reached in the coming hours to prevent a military intervention headed by the United States.

"Mexico is worried about the intransigence of the de facto authorities of Haiti, but it is hopeful that an agreement will be reached by the parties hours before a possible invasion," Mexican Foreign Secretary Manuel Tello said.

When interviewed during activities to mark the 184th anniversary of the start of the independence movement in this capital, the chief of Mexican diplomacy reaffirmed the government's opposition to a military solution to expel the coupist Haitian soldiers from power.

On 31 July, the United Nations authorized the United States to use force to restore democratic order in that Caribbean nation and to restore deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in power.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said on 15 September that Mexico maintains the platform established at the Rio Group Summit in Brazil last week. At that summit, Latin America rejected the use of force to solve the Haitian case.

The Seventh Rio Group Presidential Summit, which brought together 14 Latin American and Caribbean countries, reaffirmed the need to exhaust all peaceful and diplomatic means to restore democratic order in Haiti.

EZLN Rebels Declare State of Alert in Chiapas

PA1709203694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1801 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez (Mexico), 17 Sep (EFE)—The rebel Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN), which rose up in arms in January, today declared itself on red alert in response to the alleged presence of the Mexican Army in the war zone.

In a communique sent to the press, the EZLN's ideological leader Subcommander Marcos pointed out that the government has chosen to resolve the conflict militarily in southeastern Chiapas State.

"The government is preparing a military solution in the theater of operations, intimidating the civilian population and using its paramilitary squadrons to repress and murder the people's fighters," the rebel leader said.

The EZLN said the government's Armed Forces have 10 military divisions surrounding the Zapatists, who remain entrenched in the Lacandona jungle, "which it intends to use to drown the Zapatists' voices."

"With this force of over 50,000 federal soldiers, the supreme government intends to intimidate the EZLN's rebellion against fraud and it intends to establish its legitimacy with the support of news media monopolies in Mexican territory," he said.

Subcommander Marcos also denounced the fact that the federal troops that are occupying the municipal capitals of Ocosingo, Altamirano, and Las Margaritas, patrol areas beyond their current positions to provoke the EZLN troops and force a confrontation.

On 12 September, federal Army combat airplanes carried out intimidatory maneuvers over towns in Las Margaritas and Ocosingo Municipalities.

Marcos pointed out that among top government circles, a military solution to the conflict has already been decided, and they are only waiting for the right time to attack the Zapatist positions.

The EZLN is asking the Army's high command and all its troops, since they have decided to respond to their demands of democracy, freedom, and justice with an armed clash, to conduct themselves with military honor and to respect the civilian population during combat.

The armed conflict in Chiapas, the poorest state in Mexico, broke out on 1 January when the EZLN rose up in arms against the government to demand social justice for the Indian peoples.

During the first 11 days of the conflict, the rebels staged strong clashes with the Mexican Army, which left at least 150 dead, approximately 50 wounded, and about 20,000 homeless, according to unofficial figures.

Defense Secretariat Denies Sending More Troops to Chiapas

PA1709215094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2050 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Sep (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Secretariat of National Defense today denied having increased its presence in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas, as the armed group operating in that region claimed last night after placing its members on "red alert."

"So far we have not increased the number of military personnel deployed to the conflict area" known as "Los Altos de Chiapas," the Mexican Defense Secretariat said in a brief press communique.

The rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), which emerged in Chiapas on 1 January 1994, said in a press communique that the government has increased the number of military troops in the area and is preparing for a military solution.

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The Mexican defense secretary replied a few hours later, saying that "the troop movements taking place are actually soldiers being relieved, which is necessary because the military units need rest as they have been in that state for the past four months."

The EZLN, which is presenting the Indians' demands, and the government have maintained a cease-fire since last January following 12 days of clashes that left some 100 people dead.

The peace negotiations, which began shortly after the armed group emerged, were suspended during the final preparations for the general elections on 21 August.

The EZLN General Command denounced in their communique the increase in the number of military troops, claiming the government has opted for a military solution and saying that EZLN forces "are ready to resist the attack."

According to the armed group, "the federal troops that are occupying the municipal capitals of Ocosingo and Las Margaritas initiated patrols outside their positions and have entered the areas where the EZLN operates to provoke our forces."

Government Mediator Rejects EZLN Charges of Army Offensive

PA1809051494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2350 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] San Cristobal de las Casas, 17 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Jorge Madrazo Cuellar, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas, today denied that the government is preparing a military action to solve the conflict in the state.

Interviewed upon his arrival in this city in southeastern Mexico, the commissioner denied there is a plan to find a military solution to the conflict, as the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) charged on Friday night.

Madrazo reiterated that the government will not conduct any offensive against the EZLN and reiterated its interest in solving this problem through dialogue.

The armed group, which occupied four municipalities in Los Altos de Chiapas on 1 January, stated in a communique that the government increased the number of troops in the area and said preparations are under way for a military solution.

The Defense Secretariat denied it had increased its presence in the southern Mexican State of Chiapas, as the armed group operating in that region had stated after placing its members on "red alert."

Madrazo said: "I, as representative of the government and as the person in charge of the peace process, emphatically insist that the government will not take any offensive action to resolve the conflict."

He added: "The government will seek a direct dialogue with the EZLN to restore peace and tranquillity in the state. I therefore do not agree with the communique (issued by the armed group)."

He said the Mexican Government wants peace with freedom and justice. He reiterated that the offensive initiative will never come from the Mexican Army.

Proof of that, he said, is that "we are going to maintain at all costs the cease-fire unilaterally declared by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari on 12 January.

Madrazo Cuellar said, however, that he and the federal authorities were concerned by the "red alert" declared by the EZLN. He even said this decision could obstruct the peace efforts.

He said, "I hope that with proof and positive results, it is going to be suspended very soon."

The EZLN, which is representing Indian demands, and the government have maintained a cease-fire since last January following 12 days of clashes that left 100 people dead.

The peace negotiations that were initiated shortly after the emergence of the armed group were suspended during the final preparations for the general elections on 21 August.

In this regard, the peace commissioner said we could return to the 32 social commitments acquired by the government and rejected by the EZLN.

According to sources close to the government delegation, Madrazo could meet this afternoon with Samuel Ruiz, mediator and bishop of the local diocese, to review the EZLN's statements and the state's peace process.

According to the armed group, "the federal troops that are occupying the municipal capitals of Ocosingo and Las Margaritas have begun to patrol outside their positions and have entered areas in which the EZLN operates with the purpose of provoking our forces."

Cuba's Alarcon Interviewed on U.S. Talks

PA1709045794 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 15 Sep 94 pp 60, 50

[Report on interview with Ricardo Alarcon, president of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government and chief Cuban negotiator at the New York immigration talks, while "passing through Mexico on his return from New York," by Blanche Petrich; date not given—all quotation marks as published]

[Text] Enemies for 35 years, the U.S. and Cuban Governments experimented by holding a dialogue, and the test was successful. This is the lesson that Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, has learned from the recently concluded negotiations in New York.

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After decades of not addressing anything at the official bilateral level, the two governments on Friday reached a migration agreement that "changed" the way the so-called Adjustment Act of 1966 will be applied. For the Havana government, this was a success of its diplomacy and a "superpositive" achievement, Alarcon stated in an interview with this newspaper.

A key member of the Cuban delegation that negotiated the agreement in New York, Alarcon said this might be "a first step" which, at least in terms of migration, might enable bilateral relations between the two countries to become "fully" normalized. He also noted that current Cuban-U.S. relations are the only bilateral ties in the hemisphere that are focused on conflict.

Is this a first step toward other agreements and a broader bilateral dialogue with greater scope? This is uncertain, but according to the head of the Cuban parliament and veteran diplomat, it is not impossible.

"Let's hope so. We have always been willing to resolve the bilateral disagreements with the United States through dialogue and respectful negotiation. This idea is increasingly more evident in newspaper editorials and in the opinions of political leaders and the business sector. Those who are opposed are increasingly more isolated."

Alarcon, former Cuban ambassador to the United Nations and former foreign minister, believes "dialogue was tested out in a complicated and very sensitive issue, and the result was positive. This is going to open the eyes of those who resist this change."

Moreover: "An agreement of this kind requires much follow-up. Each point in the agreement leads to greater exchange, consultation, and concerted effort. Therefore, it will force many people to get used to the idea that the two countries can deal with each other in normal ways."

We posed this question to Alarcon: Nevertheless, the initial Cuban position of linking the migration issue to other matters for negotiation, such as the lifting of the blockade, did not receive a reply from the other side...

Alarcon responded: Is that what you think? There was a reply in the media and in political commentaries. We raised this as a question of principle and because it is the truth. The economic effects of the blockade are what compel many people to emigrate. We would not be honest if we did not state that this is a fundamental problem and that the blockade must be eliminated if one wants to resolve the problem in a lasting, complete, and definitive manner and eliminate the causes that compel people to migrate.

"We also said we are willing to negotiate on any relevant bilateral issue. What we needed to do, in order to begin, was to sit down and negotiate on something, even if it was only migration. Also, to be consistent, we had to draw attention to the root of the problem, which is the blockade.

"In this way, we put blockade at the center of the debate, and there are many people who share our viewpoint. In no negotiations in which I have participated do I remember seeing so many important people from the U.S. establishment [previous word in English] on my side as now, making statements similar to what I was saying. This is a new and interesting situation that cannot be underestimated."

Alarcon's Hobby Horse

In the past 14 years, the U.S. policy of considering the Cuban immigrant as a dissident and granting him privileges has been a hobby horse in Alarcon's political-diplomatic work. He has been his government's ambassador to the United Nations for two decades. The migration dispute is the oldest item on the long list of Cuban-U.S. conflicts and disagreements.

Passing through Mexico on his way home from New York, Alarcon looks pleased and hopeful. He has good reason for this. He insists on recalling that the migration issue, and more specifically the U.S. measures to "illegally permit the entry into the United States of any Cuban who left Cuba," touched off the already old dispute which began between the United States and Cuba in the first week of January 1959, long before the nascent Castro revolution declared itself socialist and pro-Soviet.

The Adjustment Act, approved by the U.S. Congress in 1966 and engendered by the most heated days of the Cold War, granted privileges to Cubans who illegally left Cuba retroactively to 1959. It granted them automatic entry and, in turn, permission to work from the first day they arrived. It guaranteed them legal residence after one year and facilitated their naturalization in much shorter periods than any other immigrants.

Unlike Mexicans, Salvadorans, Haitians or people from any other country, there were not, until now, Cuban illegals [previous word published in italics] in the United States.

Alarcon believes that one of the most important elements of the recent agreement is that the U.S. executive branch has confirmed through a bilateral pact with the Cuban Government its commitment to oppose and prevent with effective measures available to both governments the hijacking of aircraft and vessels and acts of violence to undertake illegal immigration.

We asked Alarcon this: Would you say that with this President Bill Clinton has removed a historic injustice from the bilateral relations?

Alarcon responded: I would say that at least the groundwork has been laid in order that in this area relations between the two countries will be completely normal. Do not forget that the migration policy they have supposedly abandoned was one of the main instruments of hostility against Cuba.

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Alarcon gets excited about the migration topic. He recalls the story of the first band of emigrants who followed the two first planes in which Fulgencio Batista and his staff fled Havana, then known as Ciudad Trujillo. They were very different from today's *rafters*. They left in every kind of ship, yacht, or plane they could get their hands on.

"Embezzlers, torturers, and police chiefs, an entire band of criminals that, without exception, the United States admitted with a great welcome."

On 19 August, what Alarcon described as the "political manipulation" of a worldwide phenomenon formally ended—namely, emigration from the poor countries of the South to the United States, combined with the historic tradition of a migration current from the island to southern Florida, where there are cities, such as Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Key West, which were founded by tobacco farmers from Cuba.

Foreign Minister To Sign Economic Agreements

PA1809210994 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1935 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Mexican Foreign Secretary Carlos Tello Macias arrived today in Havana for a two-day official visit during which he will sign several economic cooperation plans.

Tello Macias, who was greeted at Jose Marti International Airport by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, said that during his visit he will conclude "several very specific agreements" but refrained for providing further details.

The two foreign ministers did say that on Tuesday they will announce the creation of a joint oil enterprise for the production of refined products. The plant will be located in Cienfuegos, a city in southwestern Cuba. Its products will be offered on the local market and the surplus exported.

"We wish to keep this relationship (Cuban-Mexican) as strong as it has been so far, and we are going to try to make it even stronger," Tello said.

Regarding the visiting foreign minister's agenda, Foreign Minister Robaina said it will be "mostly economic." Robaina said Tello will also be able to update his knowledge of Cuba's current situation.

Tello Macias said Cuba "can count on Mexico's support" for presenting at the UN General Assembly a draft resolution condemning the more than 30-year-old economic embargo by the United States.

Several resolutions condemning the blockade were approved at the last two UN General Assembly sessions.

The Mexican and Cuban foreign ministers on Monday will preside over the sixth meeting of the Intergovernmental Mixed General Commission, which will constitute the first exhaustive revision of bilateral relations in six years and will conclude with the signing of economic agreements.

The Mexican foreign minister will also meet with Vice Presidents Carlos Lage and Jose Ramon Fernandez; Ernesto Melendez, foreign investment and economic cooperation minister; and Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government.

Tello Macias will also participate in a seminar on the career of late Cuban Foreign Minister Raul Roa Garcia at the United Nations and will visit a biotechnological production center.

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El Salvador

Defense Minister on Cuban Refugees; Foreign Minister on Haiti

PA1709005294 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 16 Sep 94 p 5

[Text] Defense Minister General Humberto Corado stated yesterday that the country's economic conditions preclude even considering El Salvador as an appropriate place to receive the Cuban rafters. Nevertheless, Gen. Corado added that accepting Cubans would be possible as long as they are confined to a small area, kept under control, and the United States pays for their expenses on a temporary haven basis.

President Armando Calderon Sol said on Tuesday his government was willing to receive Cuban rafters, despite problems still being faced with former rebels. According to Gen. Corado, Calderon Sol's position constitutes "a humanitarian action and a political decision by the government," although he reiterated that as far as he is concerned, he believes conditions are not suitable to accept them.

On the same issue, Foreign Minister Oscar Alfredo Santamaria said, "Accepting Cuban refugees is a gesture that shows how much El Salvador owes to the international community." Santamaria added, "Salvadorans are a migrant people who have been welcomed in other countries."

Asked why the government is accepting Cuban refugees and rejecting Haitians, Santamaria argued that the Haitian case was not very serious, while the Cuban case "has worsened in recent days."

In terms of the imminent U.S. invasion of Haiti, Santamaria said that so far it is only "speculation," and he did not refer to major war preparations, such as the presence of the "USS Eisenhower" aircraft carrier which the United States has deployed off the Haitian coast.

Public Security Deputy Hugo Barrera believes that the case of the Cuban rafters does not concern him, but he noted that as Salvadoran citizens, "we should maintain a humanitarian position." Barrera added that if we can help any Latin American nation in any way, we should be very pleased to do it. Barrera refused to comment on the possibility that the eventual arrival of the Cubans could complicate the country's domestic situation.

Roberto Viera, PDC [Christian Democratic Party] deputy, believes that refusing to accept the Haitians and accepting the Cubans shows the current government's dependence on the United States, because, according to him, accepting the Cubans is obviously an imposition by the U.S. Government.

No Justification To Extend ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador]

Gen. Corado said the Army does not believe there is any justification to extend the stay of the ONUSAL delegation in the country "because it has already complied with the stipulations of the peace agreement." He added that a decision on this issue will have to come from an agreement between the government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front].

Referring to the presence of Salvadoran troops along the border with Honduras, Corado emphasized that this deployment is only "at a prudent distance from the border to prevent any problems."

Foreign Minister Responds to Clinton Address on Haiti

PA1709010894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Sep (NOTIMEX)—The Salvadoran Government today proposed that all diplomatic means be exhausted in an effort to peacefully resolve the Haitian crisis that started with the September 1991 military coup.

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Oscar Santamaria said El Salvador respects the principle of nonintervention, "which we have historically maintained," while referring to the ultimatum issued by U.S. President William Clinton yesterday against the de facto regime in Haiti.

The Salvadoran foreign minister ruled out the country's participation in an imminent U.S.-led military intervention against Haiti. Nevertheless, Santamaria said he supports the sending of a humanitarian-type civilian mission under the framework of UN Security Council Resolution No. 940 issued on 31 July.

"We are not going to participate in any military action. El Salvador will not do it. We will support the sending of a humanitarian-type civilian mission in keeping with the UN resolution, and this is our country's position," he said.

On Friday, both the ruling and opposition political parties spoke out to voice their opposition to the military occupation of Haiti by U.S. military forces.

Guatemala

President De Leon Praises Agreement on Haiti

PA1909044094 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0401 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Sep (DPA)—Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio said tonight at the conclusion of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's mission that he is pleased with the last-minute agreement reached in Haiti.

"Fantastic! Two goals were achieved: first, the preservation of human lives on both sides; and second, the prompt beginning of a democratic government that will bring peace and justice."

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De Leon Carpio yesterday sent an urgent appeal to General Raoul Cedras, commander in chief of the Haitian Army, to accept a peaceful solution to the Haitian situation.

In the message, De Leon likened Haiti's situation to Guatemala's in terms of poverty and poor conditions of health, income, and well-being. De Leon said Haiti could pull out of the situation as Guatemala is doing by consolidating the de jure state and democracy.

"It appears that the message was timely," De Leon Carpio told DPA tonight.

He added that the success achieved by the Carter mission "deserves our respect, as does the attitude of President Bill Clinton, who made every effort and exhausted every resource to avoid an armed invasion that would have resulted in loss of life."

"History will acknowledge their effort," said the Guatemalan president during a telephone interview.

Nicaragua

President Signs Agreement With Germany To Renegotiate Debt

PA1609231694 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Sep 94 pp 1, 9

[Report by Roberto Larios]

[Text] Yesterday in Managua the Nicaraguan and German Governments signed an agreement to renegotiate our foreign debt with that country. President Violeta Chamorro and Jurgen Echternach, finance secretary of the parliamentarian state [title as published], signed the agreement during a brief ceremony at the Presidential House.

The debt renegotiated by the agreement amounts to $183.8 million, of which the German Government pardoned 80 percent of the loans granted by the former German Democratic Republic and 50 percent of the loans granted by the Federal Republic of Germany. The balance of the overdue debt will be renegotiated in late 1994.

In her thank-you speech, President Chamorro stressed the significance of the German decision, with which Nicaragua fully complies with the agreement it signed in 1991 with creditor countries, members of the Paris Club.

Chamorro emphasized the special meaning in pardoning a high percentage of the debt with a former socialist country. This pardon "sets a significant example for our future negotiations."

The signing of the agreement with Germany opens two good opportunities for Nicaragua: first, the possibility of holding a second round of negotiations with the Paris Club under different terms, thanks to the latest resolution adopted by the *Group of Seven*, regarding granting exceptional treatment to such indebted countries as ours.

The second opportunity is the possibility of negotiating, under favorable terms, the huge debt owed to the rest of the former socialist countries.

German Ambassador to Nicaragua Helmut Schopp, the diplomatic corps, cabinet members, and journalists attended the signing ceremony.

Two Opportunities

During her speech, the president recalled the conditions in which she found the country in 1990 and the efforts by her government on economic reforms.

Meanwhile, the high-ranking German Government official stressed his country's resolve to support Nicaragua in the next round of negotiations with the Paris Club.

Germany will support the approval of new terms benefiting lower-income indebted countries and the very special treatment benefiting exceptional cases like Nicaragua's, Echternach pointed out.

Humberto Ortega Reiterates Plan To Retire in 1995

PA1609190094 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Sep 94

[From the "This Morning" newscast]

[Text] It is reported from Mexico that Nicaraguan Army Chief General Humberto Ortega stated in Mexico City on Thursday that violence does not solve but worsens problems in countries. Gen. Humberto Ortega is attending the celebration of the 184th anniversary of Mexico's independence. He called for the democratization of the economy at the worldwide level to permit the development of political democracy.

In remarks to the Mexican media, the Nicaraguan Army chief once again confirmed that he will retire on 21 February, as stipulated by the new Military Code.

Panama

Perez Balladares Offers Asylum to Cedras

PA1609220594 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1930 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Report by Sorai Mariel Bambu]

[Text] The president of the Republic, who is at El Mayor Stables, moments ago said Panama would be willing to grant political asylum to Raoul Cedras if this could prevent an invasion of Haiti. He added that no Cuban in Panama will be granted political asylum.

[Begin Perez Balladares recording in progress] ...has not changed at all. I reaffirm our willingness to help prevent

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this invasion. Specifically, if Mr. Cedras, for example, accepts asylum in Panama to prevent an invasion of Haiti, we would gladly grant him asylum, but only under these conditions—that is, asylum to prevent the invasion, not asylum following the invasion.

Unfortunately, I think there is little time to try to do anything else. I sincerely think that all efforts at all levels have tried to prevent a situation that will be very sad and very traumatic for the Haitian people. [Unidentified reporter] Will a group of Panamanians be sent to Haiti? Physicians perhaps?

[Perez Balladares] We decided to help reconstruct Haiti. This implies, of course, offering help in those areas in which we can help, to the extent permitted by our limited capabilities. One example could be found in the area of medicine. We could help by sending nurses, physicians, and paramedics who would be hired by the United Nations to help the Haitian people during the postdictatorship phase. I hope the dictatorship can be eliminated through peaceful means. Our offer is not a condition for an invasion. I hope there will be no invasion, and, in turn, we might still help reconstruct Haiti.

[Reporter] Some Cubans have requested political asylum. Are you considering this possibility?

[Perez Balladares] The commitment we were given from the very beginning was that the Cubans would remain where they currently are housed for a period of six months. We will not grant political asylum to any of them. [end recording]

When asked about this same issue, Foreign Minister Gabriel Lewis Galindo said nothing has yet been decided with regard to the Cubans. This suggests there is a clear contradiction between the positions of President Ernesto Perez Balladares and Foreign Minister Gabriel Lewis Galindo.

Government To Send Medical Mission to Haiti

PA1609164494 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 16 Sep 94 p 3A

[Report by Carlos Anel Cordero]

[Text] The Panamanian Government will send a medical mission to Haiti comprised of 140 specialists, Luis Onofre De Las Casas, international health director of the Health Ministry, announced yesterday.

The medical professionals who will have the task of providing health care to the Haitian people will be contracted by the United Nations, which will pay for all their expenses.

De Las Casas said that applications from those interested in participating in the mission will begin to be received today at the Metropolitan Health Region offices.

The delegation to be sent by Panama will include surgeons, dentists, lab technicians, nurses, paramedics, health engineers, and other medical professionals.

The official said these professionals might be in Haiti for a period of four to six months.

Relations With Cuba To Be Raised to Ambassador Level

PA1609165194 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 16 Sep 94 p 3A

[Article by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] The governments of Presidents Ernesto Perez Balladares and Fidel Castro have decided to raise the diplomatic relations between Panama and Cuba to the level of ambassador, Cuban Charge d'Affaires Miguel Martinez disclosed yesterday.

There is a "willingness" on the part of both nations to normalize relations. The "decision has been made, and now it is a matter of time," Martinez told EL PANAMA AMERICA.

In March 1990, the government of President Guillermo Endara ordered the departure from Panama of Cuban Ambassador Lazaro Mora. Subsequently, 13 other diplomats were ousted.

Since November 1990, when the Panamanian Government realized that former legislator Luis Gomez—by that time exiled in the Cuban diplomatic residence—had had telephone conversations with former General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Endara allowed the presence of only two diplomats of the Castro regime.

With regard to trade between Cuba and Panama, the charge d'affairs acknowledged that "for many years" a large group of Free Zone businessmen have been engaged in trade with the island.

Cuban Rafters Request Asylum

PA1609170194 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1201 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Panama City, 16 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The situation of the Cuban "rafters" in Panama on Thursday [15 September] took a new twist when a group of 10 of them sent a letter to the Panamanian Foreign Ministry requesting political asylum in the Canal Zone, according to local newspapers.

The request for asylum coincides with their rejection of the immigration agreement reached between Cuba and the United States last week, which stipulates that only Cubans who return to the island will be able to apply for one of the 20,000 plus visas that the U.S. Government is offering.

The rafters belong to a group of over 1,000—of a total of 10,000 who will be sent to Panama from the U.S. base in Guantanamo, Cuba—who have been lodged at one of

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four camps the U.S. Army has established in a partial-jungle area on the shores of the Canal for a period of six months.

Martin Gonzalez, one of the Cubans who sent the letter to the Panamanian Government seeking asylum, in statements on the local RPC radio station justified his decision, explaining that he did not leave the island thinking solely of "getting into or going to the United States, but of entering any country recommended to me."

Nevertheless, Gonzalez, who said he is a teacher and masonry worker, added that he is trying to establish the possibility of receiving political asylum in Panama "because I have discovered the affection and fondness of the Panamanian people."

On 3 September, the Panamanian Government reached an agreement with the United States to receive 10,000 Cuban rafters for a period of six months, during which they will be under the care, responsibility, and support of the U.S. Army.

The Cuban refugees, meanwhile, were visited yesterday by Ninoska Perez and Luis Zuniga, representatives of the Cuban exiles in the United States, whose North American-Cuban Association will try to help the rafters travel to the United States soon to be reunited with their relatives.

Zuniga pointed out that "our mission is to heal the wounds caused by Castro and unite the Cuban people until we can definitively unite in Cuba, which is our true final destiny."

Meanwhile, the Southern Command today denied that two young Cuban rafters briefly left the camp where they are confined to go into Panama City, as Alberto Cigarruista, a legislator for the opposition Authentic Liberal Party (PLA) has claimed.

Illegal Cuban Immigration Operation Uncovered

PA1809180994 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 17 Sep 94 p 12E

[Article by Juan Manuel Diaz C.]

[Text] An operation to illegally bring Cuban immigrants into Panama was uncovered by the immigration authorities. Immigration Director German Gil Sanchez has said that it is believed Hernan Tejeira Jaen, Panamanian charge d'affaires in Havana, is involved in this operation.

Sanchez said that the Foreign Ministry has recalled Tejeira for him to explain the procedures followed for the issuing of resident visas for 10 Cuban citizens.

The visas were issued prior to 1 September and for this reason, an investigation is being conducted to determine the possibility of immigration officials being involved in this operation.

According to Sanchez, he has asked the airlines not to sell tickets to Cuban citizens who present visas dated before 1 September.

However, he said that the paperwork for Cuban businessmen and others who wish to travel to Panama has not been stopped and that they may come here if their papers are in order.

The immigration director said that the problems could be part of a large operation to make money by taking Cubans to the United States. He added that the whereabouts of a large number of Cubans who entered the country illegally are not known.

Sanchez said that he does not know exactly how the visas are altered but it is believed that "the order is issued here and once received there (Cuba), it is altered."

The investigation is aimed at locating the exact origin of the fake visas.

'All' Visas Annulled

PA1709041194 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Sep 94

[From the "Telemetro Reports" newscast]

[Excerpts] Immigration Director German Gil Sanchez has ordered the annulment of all visas issued to Cuban citizens before 1 September, because of irregularities detected in the processing of visas granted in Havana. [passage omitted]

[Begin Sanchez recording] In the past two weeks we have found over 15 visas that were issued only for transit, and when the Cubans arrived in Panama, they were carrying resident visas. We are investigating where and how the change took place and who was responsible. We warning everyone that no one else will be able to buy airline tickets until the visas issued by the previous government are examined by this office. [end recording] [passage omitted]

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Argentina

Cuba Protests Menem's Call for Democratization

PY1709035894 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 16 Sep 94 p 10

[Text] Government House sources have reported that the Cuban Government protested before the Argentine Government for President Carlos Menem's recent calls "to democratize" the island made at the Rio Group summit last weekend.

Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella explained the issue of the protest note during the cabinet meeting yesterday. Di Tella talked about the summit results and the Rio Group declaration calling for an end to the trade embargo that the United States has maintained against the island for the past 35 years.

The request to lift the embargo was accepted by the Argentine delegation following harsh discussions between presidents and foreign ministers.

During the Rio Group summit in Brazil, Menem insisted on his requests for "a democratic opening" in Cuba, which the Cuban Government rejected as interference in its domestic affairs.

This is not the first time Cuba has protested. Havana assumed the same attitude following previous Ibero-American or Rio Group meetings, where Menem has traditionally criticized Castro. Menem has had various oral confrontations with Castro at different meetings of international organizations.

Menem: Support for Haiti Invasion Maintained

PY1609205994 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1930 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 16 Sep (NA) — President Carlos Menem today stressed that the possibility of granting a salary increase to the military "is not yet a totally closed matter" because he stressed that "there is still an open door to continue with the talks" on this topic.

Menem once again supported the announced military invasion of Haiti, and he emphasized that it is necessary "to reestablish democracy, freedom, and respect for human rights" in that country.

"Argentina maintains its position. I believe that we have to comply with all the pacts and treaties that our country has signed, mainly at the international level," he said.

He pointed out that "the United Nations has ordered that democracy be reestablished in Haiti and, as is always the case, the most important power on earth, in this case the United States, will head this type of action in order to achieve the objective." [passage omitted]

Border Police To Participate

PY1709014894 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0013 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 16 Sep (TELAM)—On the evening of 16 September, Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella reported that personnel from the Argentine National Border Police will only participate in the second stage of the military intervention in Haiti when all resistance to the international military forces that are preparing to invade the Caribbean island is subdued.

Petrella pointed out that the Argentine vessels participating in the blockade will, however, remain in the area at least until Jean- Bertrand Aristide is reinstated as president.

Petrella noted that "pursuant to Article 17 of UN Resolution 940, under no circumstances will troops be deployed in Haitian territory" until all resistance ceases.

The deputy foreign minister ruled out the possibility that the "invasion of Haiti may serve as precedent for a similar armed intervention in Cuba." He stated that "this is a wild interpretation that some people propound without any foundation."

Petrella said that the 100 servicemen from the National Border Police, including five physicians and five engineers, "will not come into contact with the people" and will wait in Puerto Rico until the time is ripe for them to intervene.

During a news conference, the Foreign Ministry official reiterated that "the National Border Police personnel may stay in Puerto Rico for a long time because the conditions established by the United Nations are very clear and they will not intervene until all hostilities cease." [passage omitted]

Menem Offers Asylum to Castro, Haiti's Cedras

PA1709221394 Paris AFP in Spanish 2057 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] La Rioja, Argentina, 17 Sep (AFP)—Neo-Peronist President Carlos Menem said today that Argentina "would not mind" eventually offering political asylum to Cuban head of state Fidel Castro.

Menem said at noon that his government will agree to grant asylum to Haitian military chief General Raoul Cedras "if he requests it" and if Jean-Bertrand Aristide is returned to his post as president.

Menem based both offers "on international and Argentine law."

Menem said Panama "has also offered asylum to Cedras" and recalled that Spain offered asylum to Castro in case of a hypothetical democratization of Cuba.

"Argentina is a land of peace and beyond any existing differences," Menem told the state news agency TELAM during a visit to Anillaco, his native town in La Rioja Province (northwest).

He maintained that the asylum offer for Cedras "will not harm the country's foreign relations; on the contrary, it would be a great relief to the United States."

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The Argentine Government has volunteered two warships to participate in the blockade against Haiti and has enlisted 100 gendarmes (border guards) to send to Haiti for the second phase of an eventual multinational intervention.

"I hope a tragic conflict can be prevented because Haiti's Armed Forces will not be able to resist an invasion such as that planned," Menem said.

Commenting on the peace mission led by former U.S. President James Carter in Port-au-Prince, he added, "I believe there is always hope."

Government Submits National Budget to Congress

PY1609232894 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 15 Sep 94 Economic Section p 1

[Article by Jorge Rodriguez Duval]

[Text] The government has submitted to Congress this year's budget bill, which proposes a public spending reduction of 1 percent, from 14.6 percent to 13.6 percent, with relation to the total projected growth in GDP of 6.5 percent.

Disbursements, however, will increase by 2 billion pesos next year, although the level of spending will be slightly less than this year considering the projected GDP increase of 6.5 percent, as announced by Domingo Cavallo, and a 8.37 percent projected increase in revenue.

Finance Secretary Ricardo Gutierrez recognized, however, that a 100 percent budget implementation would result in a financial deficit of 900 million pesos.

Gutierrez said that if necessary the Economy Ministry would send a bill to Congress requesting authorization for increased financing. The secretary added that the deficit would be produced by increased amounts assigned to pension and retirements and by some projects aimed at reducing poverty.

In Time

The secretary strongly emphasized that next year's budget was presented "in time" for the fourth consecutive year.

Strictly speaking, the budget allocates 6 percent more funds to social services, while 15.95 percent of the total will be used to serve the foreign debt and 3.7 percent will be spent on defense. The government will also reduce its national administrative spending by 4.7 percent, economic service spending by 16.2 percent, and goods and services spending by 10 percent.

The economic team insisted that the government will maintain the fiscal balance at all costs, even if there is a need to fulfill rigid disbursements such as those required by the 20 percent increase in education and some $490 million to service the debt.

Budget Article 15 proposes an Armed Forces and security forces reorganization program and a salary improvement plan. The budget includes an additional 250 million pesos for the salaries of professional soldiers.

The executive branch also requested authorization to privatize the National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA) and the Mint House. Gutierrez estimated that the transfer of CNEA will produce 1 billion pesos in savings.

Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo yesterday submitted to Congress the 1995 annual revenue and spending bill, contemplating a 6.5 percent growth compared to the present period and a 3 percent inflation rate.

Cavallo said that the largest spending increase is on the pensions system. A larger budget, however, will not mean pensions will increase because the additional funds will be used to fulfill current legal requirements.

Public Works

Education, in general, will receive 20 percent more. The budget also includes 297 million pesos to develop military service programs. Cavallo said: "The additional spending will not mean an increase in spending, because the 10,000 vacancies in public administration around the country will not be filled."

Investments will be reduced, according to Cavallo's words, and public funds will be used essentially for roads and public works in the interior. Cavallo said private capital will provide the amounts needed for investments in Atucha-2.

Cavallo only talked about the incorporation of one article into the second stage of the state reform. The article introduces changes in the law of ministries, and obtains an additional 1 billion pesos for social programs, public works, and employment policies.

The minister also said that June 1995 will be the deadline for state internal creditors to pay their debts.

Bolivia

Police To Participate in Peacekeeping Force

PA1809221194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2102 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] La Paz, 18 Sep (EFE)—Social Communication Minister Ernesto Machicao reported today that Bolivian policemen are preparing to perform security and control tasks as part of the multinational force if an invasion of Haiti is carried out, but only "when and for as long as President Jean-Bertrand Aristide so requests it."

Machicao said members of the police force, not the Bolivian Army, will be sent to Haiti.

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The Bolivian Government expressed its intention to cooperate in the restoration of democracy in Haiti and promised the OAS it would send police, not military troops.

Machicao stressed: "For there to be a Bolivian presence in the multinational force after the imminent invasion of Haiti, Aristide would have to request it."

He reported that the number of policemen sent will be in accordance with the requirements of the multinational force and Bolivian capabilities.

COB To Resume Negotiations With Government

PY1609120294 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Report by Amalia Pando]

[Text] After much discussion, the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] assembly this morning decided to resume its negotiations with the government and to attend the forum on coca discussions promoted by President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada.

There were not as many labor representatives in this COB assembly as in past meeetings. Through representatives of teachers unions and university associations, the POR [Revolutionary Workers Party] expressed its opposition to the holding of negotiations and attending the forum on coca discussions. POR believes that the current mobilizations can continue indefinitely until the reforms are repealed and the government is ousted.

Nevertheless, it did not obtain the support of other delegates. The majority of them believe that the COB should take advantage of the marches and mobilizations to obtain the government's approval on old demands and many unfulfilled promises.

Finally, the COB assembly expressed its approval for the COB executive board to resume negotiations with the government. The negotiations will resume after COB leader Oscar Salas and coca grower Evo Morales return from the coca growers march which they joined this morning and which is about 200 km from La Paz.

Brazil

Franco Applauds U.S. Negotiators Going to Haiti

PA1709224794 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2127 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Brasilia, 17 Sep (DPA)—Brazilian President Itamar Franco today sent a letter to President Bill Clinton expressing concern about the U.S. military escalation off the coast of Haiti. In the letter, Franco applauded the decision to send a negotiating mission, headed by former President Jimmy Carter, to Port-au-Prince.

Franco also voiced his apprehension about the way the events surrounding the Haitian crisis are unfolding, particularly the possibility that "force may be used."

Franco added in his letter to Clinton that "Brazil and other Latin American countries have tried to contribute to solving the crisis in hopes of sparing the Haitian people greater suffering, thus upholding the basic principles of solidarity among nations of the Americas."

The Brazilian president said sending a negotiating team to Port- au-Prince was "positive" and recalled the recent statement made at the Rio Group meeting in favor of a peaceful solution to the Haitian situation.

Franco said "it is never too late to give diplomacy another chance," adding that recent events have proven this, although he did not specify what events.

Franco emphasized his country's constant commitment to dialogue and negotiated solutions, "especially when human lives can be saved."

"Within its democratic tradition, Brazil is ready to contribute to a lasting solution to the Haitian crisis that will allow national reconciliation and the establishment of democracy in that sister country," the letter adds, "while upholding the principles of self-determination, nonintervention, and international coexistence."

Brazil and China were the only members of the UN Security Council to abstain from voting on Resolution 940, which authorized the use of military force to dislodge the military regime headed by General Raoul Cedras.

Franco Signs Decree Promoting Tlatelolco Treaty

PY1709005894 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] President Itamar Franco has signed a decree promulgating the Tlatelolco Treaty, which prohibits nuclear weapons in Latin America. The treaty allows the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, allowing the possibility of using nuclear energy for new technologies. Nuclear energy can be used in medical equipment and machinery, submarine motors, and in other scientific fields.

Government Opposes Conditions on Coffee Exports

PY1609235494 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2227 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Report by Aldo Renato Soares]

[Text] Brasilia, 15 Sep (AE)—The Brazilian Government has decided to avoid conditions on coffee exports, and will communicate this position to producing and consuming countries during an International Coffee Organization (OIC) meeting on 26 September in London. The

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proposal, which was ruled out by the government, provided that each exporter should sell one bag of coffee to the local coffee roasting and grinding industry in order to be able to export two bags. The objective of the proposal was to guarantee the domestic supply for the next two years, in light of the expected 40 percent drop in production caused by the frosts in June and July and by the drought.

The OIC agreement is still in force, but without the economic clauses that established the export quotas and production targets for each country. The economic clauses of the agreement were suspended in July 1989 after an impasse between coffee producers and consumers. The Brazilian delegation, which will be headed by Brazilian Ambassador to the UK Rubens Barbosa, will also inform the OIC about the measures that Brazil—the world' largest coffee producer and exporter—adopted at a Brazilian Coffee Committee meeting on 14 September. Celsius Lodder, a former chief of the National Supply Superintendency (Sunab), will be installed as OIC executive director. The OIC meeting will begin on 26 September and end on 30 September.

Sources at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism today emphasized that there is great expectation over the OIC meeting. The coffee price hike on the international market is more worrisome for producing countries than it is for consuming countries. High prices discourage consumption within the short term, encouraging producing countries to expand croplands, increasing supply and reducing prices in the future. "A stable coffee price would be ideal for Brazil and for consuming countries," the source said. Coffee purchases increase as of October, at the beginning of winter in the northern hemisphere, pushing prices even higher. Brazil's yearly exports amount to approximately 16 million bags.

Lula: Import Tax Cuts To Increase Unemployment

PY1609234394 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2005 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Teresina, 15 Sep (AE)—PT [Workers Party] presidential candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva today said in Teresina [capital of Piaui State], that the government's decision to reduce import taxes from 35 percent to 20 percent is very serious. "This is a very irresponsible decision against Brazilian workers," he said, adding: "To implement an agreement that Brazilian and Argentine industries would have adopted in six years' time can cause very high levels of unemployment and bankruptcies in several areas of Brazilian industry." [passage omitted]

"The Itamar Franco administration will create thousands of jobs in countries that sell more products to Brazil—among them Japan, Germany, Sweden, England, and the United States. Meanwhile, thousands of people will be left jobless in our country." Lula believes a reduction in import taxes may have positive results in the first 30 or 40 days, but will have disastrous effects for Brazilian industries. [passage omitted]

PT Presidential Candidate Lula Interviewed

PY1509201094 Sao Paulo Rede Bandeirantes Television in Portuguese 0235 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Interview with Workers Party, PT, presidential candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva by journalists Luiz Gutemberg, Luiz Nassif, and Fernando Mitre; Sao Paulo Stock Exchange President Alvaro Augusto Vidigal; Businessmen's Association President Emerson Kapaz; with moderator Francisco Pinheiro, in Sao Paulo—live]

[Excerpts] [Pinheiro] Mr. Luiz Inacio, at the beginning of this election race you headed the polls by a large margin. That advantage now favors candidate Fernando Henrique Cardoso. Where or what was your mistake?

[Lula] [laughs] Sincerely speaking, I would not say a mistake was made somewhere or at some given time. For nearly eight months we headed the polls. At the time I said the campaign had not begun yet. I said the campaign would really begin when all the political parties placed all their candidates in the field. That happened after the official party conventions took place. Even following that I continued to head the polls for some time until the real plan was launched and the government apparatus began to be used. It was then that my position in the polls changed.

If anybody asks me about it I answer with the same calmness I did when I headed the polls with 42 percent of the voters' preference. I am sure the campaign is still under way. We are in the main stage. I believe we will improve our position and win the elections. I believe there was no mistake. It is difficult to speak of mistakes when the campaign is still under way. [passage omitted]

[Mitre] Lula, let us go back to the previous subject because the defining issue of this campaign is the real plan, so let us talk about it. When the real plan was launched it caused a reaction from you which you did not pursue, it seems you reconsidered your initial reaction. I remember your first phrase: The plan represents frozen misery. That was a prepared phrase which you wanted repeated by the whole country within a month. But the real plan did not freeze misery. You then said the plan would clearly disappoint housewives when they indignantly returned from the supermarkets. That also did not happen.

Now you have given up that ostensibly hostile rhetoric against the real. You are not consistent. We are awaiting your definite position as a candidate regarding the real plan. Will you say anything about it in the next 20 days?

[Lula] We want the public to understand our position regarding the economic plan. When the real plan was launched we said its mistakes lay in its basic principles. That is, the creation of the Social Emergency Fund which used funds from education, health, and housing to create

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a nearly $15 billion fund to pay domestic debt interests. When the URV [Real Value Unit] was created, prices rocketed and salaries were readjusted on the average inflation rate of the four previous months, as it is traditionally done in this country. When workers' salaries were adjusted day by day, based on the URV, they were no longer harmed. Then came the implementation of the real and the basic family basket cost 106 [currency not specified]. It jumped from 79 when Fernando Henrique Cardoso became finance minister in 1993 to 106 when the real came into effect. The price of the family basket is now dropping but it is still well above the minimum salary.

Therefore our first criticism is that things were not done on an equal footing. Also, for the first time ever, it is possible to implement an economic plan in Brazil without generating unemployment and recession.

Whenever I watch a minister on television telling the people to stop consuming, to stop purchasing, it gives me the impression that I am living in Germany, Switzerland, or France. The real problem in Brazil is the lack of purchasing power of the majority of the people. Our industries are almost idle. If the people could buy things we could reactivate our industries, create jobs, and generate salaries which would fuel consumption. This would generate even more employment and we would create the society of our dreams. Right? We have already proved this.

We proved this with an example which may not be the solution to everything. We proved it is possible to have a minimum level of social control on inflation when Vicente [Sole Workers Center, CUT, President Vicente Paulo da Silva, Vicentinho] made a deal within the government-management-labor negotiating board of the car industry. He proved that by reducing taxes the government collected more money. The prices of cars were reduced, car companies earned more, workers received a 20 percent wage increase, and the employment rate in the car factories increased. Car companies never produced so many cars, the government never collected so much in taxes, and the workers never enjoyed such a situation of harmony—even though once in a while they stage strikes. [passage omitted]

[Nassif] Lula, you said the PT would consolidate the real plan. I want to point out two things: First, I do not agree with your assertion that the industry government-management-labor negotiating boards can solve inflation. The car industry board has so far solved very important problems like investment and production, and the reduction of car prices in dollars since it is impossible to keep track of them in reals. But if you become president, what measures would you adopt to consolidate the real plan?

[Lula] I never said the government-management-labor negotiating board of the car industry would solve the problem alone. I said it initiated a social control of inflation. Once you establish rules for prices, salaries, public utility rates, you obviously begin to gain control and prevent inflation from running rampant as it does when there is total freedom for speculation. Of course, to curb inflation many more things must be done. Beside sponsoring the government-management-labor negotiating boards, the greed of Brazilian bankers must be restrained as well as that of speculators who want to recover their capital even before they invest it.

[Nassif] How would you do all that?

[Lula] One must first negotiate with the financial system an extension on the repayment of our debt. The government cannot pay $15 billion in interests every year. Second, it is necessary to establish a new tax policy, a new fiscal adjustment. I believe the government is lying when it says it wants a tax reform. It does not want that. If it really did, the budget law would have already been approved in Congress. The budget law was not approved. [Finance Minister] Ciro Gomes said in the papers that he favored the approval of the budget law but now he is against it because it would pressure the government to spend the money. [passage omitted]

[Gutemberg] Lula, you are eluding the point. You did not answer the question posed by Emerson Kapaz, nor the one about the real plan. Why do you not clearly describe the PT's plan to continue the real plan? Why do you not answer how the PT will solve the problem of the strength of corporatism which goes against the government objectives?

[Lula] I deeply regret that learned people should be mistaken. I do not think the real is a plan, I think it is a currency. The plan must yet be designed. All I say is that we need a tax reform, that we must further control public expenses....

[Gutemberg, interrupting] But the tax reform bill was torpedoed by the PT during the constitution amendment process.

[Lula] That is not true, it is not true, please. If those who are responsible for informing the public do not do so, things become very difficult. Last 22 December I was in Brasilia asking the leaders of the largest parties to stop the stupidity of the constitution amendment process and give priority treatment to the tax reform. They did not do so. A draft budget bill was recently sent to Congress which was already sent in August [year not specified], withdrawn in November, and it has now returned to Congress. Fernando Henrique Cardoso, who drafted that bill, did not even turn up to vote on it because he and the government are not interested in its approval. We defied them. The PT bloc was present in Congress.

We must clearly state that those who opposed the tax reform or the constitution amendment process were not the opposition because that only comprises 120 congressmen. Some 469 congressmen favored the tax reform but not even 292 [needed to approve the bill] attended because most congressmen are a gang of scoundrels. It

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must be said or honest congressmen who attend congressional sessions to vote may become confused with those who never turn up to vote. [passage omitted]

[Vidigal] Lula, you said that there are productive and unproductive investments in Brazil. Some $15 billion is invested in Brazilian companies through the stock exchanges. How would you classify this kind of investment? Does your government have a plan for the capital market?

[Lula] If foreign investors come to invest in Brazil through the stock exchange and if their money is invested in industry, if their money generates jobs, I consider it more than welcome. We are aware of this. That was one of the most important things we said during our debate with 760 U.S. investors when I visited the United States four months ago. That was their big doubt.

We are interested in attracting investments to Brazil. I told them: You must be interested in investing in Brazil and making a profit, we are interested in making each invested dollar generate a job. I think the task of ensuring that investments generate jobs falls on the government rather than on the stock exchange. The government must create the conditions to encourage people to make productive investments.

If for example tomorrow the government sponsors a policy to cultivate tomatoes and it generates a profit, even Volkswagen from Germany will want to invest in tomato production here. If the government folds its arms and allows speculation to prosper, people will want to make an easy profit through speculation.

I have always said we need a more stable stock exchange. Before the program started I joked with Alvaro [Vidigal] that when Luisinho, the mid-fielder of the Corinthians soccer team, scores two goals in 18 minutes the stock exchange drops in Sao Paulo and rises in Rio de Janeiro. The stock exchange should be more consistent, it should not be so fragile. That fragility may possibly follow the political uncertainties that prevail in Brazil. We must build a level of credibility so that people will not wake up in the morning scared about what may happen to the economy.

[Gutemberg] There is a doubt regarding your candidacy for the PT since the PT is divided into many factions. Looking at it from outside there seem to be many antagonistic factions and people ask: If Lula wins, how will these factions be controlled? Which factions will control? For example, if an aggressive, radical faction takes control of the Agriculture Ministry or the INCRA [National Land Reform and Settlement Institute] and another radical faction takes control of the Ministry of Science and Technology or even the Finance Ministry, how will Lula harmonize those many extremist factions that make up the PT?

[Lula] Would you be as concerned if instead of being PT radical factions, they were from the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party], the PPR [Progressive Renewal Party], the PP [Progressive Party], or the PFL [Liberal Front Party]?

[Gutemberg] But they do not have differing ideological principles.

[Lula] No, they do not have ideological principles but they govern the country. They are responsible for this present lack of control. I have seriously pointed out that the PT has often been criticized for its assets. Never think it is easy to exercise democracy. It is very difficult. I believe the PT is a great political school for a large number of young men engaged in politics like me. [passage omitted]

Chile

Foreign Minister Defends Invasion of Haiti

PY1609195194 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1551 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Santiago, 16 Sep (AFP-NA)—Referring to accusations that invasion violates the principle of free determination of nations, Chilean Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa stated today, 16 September, that an eventual invasion of Haiti will be the fruit of a resolution by a "competent" organization—the UN Security Council.

He said the United Nations authorized a multinational force to be deployed to Haiti in order to help the restoration of the democratic government and to end the situation aggravated by repeated human rights violations.

Chile has abstained from participating in the imminent military operation headed by the United States.

Nevertheless, the Chilean Government has promised to implement a plan to help reconstruct houses and infrastructure, and to reorganize the public administration following the departure of the current de facto Haitian officials.

U.S. Expected To Explain Trade Accord Delay

PY1609232694 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Chilean Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa and other government supporters agreed that in view of the problems that have arisen with the United States, Chile must intensify its agreements with Latin America.

Without the approval of a fast track mechanism, Bill Clinton is left without the tool that would have allowed him fast track negotiations for Chile to join NAFTA. This will delay the procedure by at least one year. Moreover, it affects the great meeting that Clinton himself has organized for December in Miami: the Summit of the Americas, which will for the first time in 27 years gather together the presidents of the countries of the three Americas.

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[Begin recording] [Figueroa] Regarding the fast track mechanism, I believe that during the meeting in Miami President Clinton's administration will have to clearly explain that its objectives are much broader. He will also have to explain that the failure to obtain the authorization for a fast track mechanism only entails a U.S. domestic policy problem, even though it blocks the possibility of creating, as the United States has expressed to our continent, a huge economic space ranging, I reiterate, from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego.

[Party for Democracy President Senator Sergio Bitar] We cannot put all our eggs in the same basket. This once again shows us that the correct strategy is to grant priority treatment to our relationship with the United States, but at the same time—and in this sense we applaud Foreign Ministry actions—act with determination regarding Mercosur [Common Market of the South].

[Christian Democratic Party President Alejandro Foxley] Chilean objectives must be pursued with determination and patience, while at the same time being perfectly aware of what their purpose is. I think it would be wrong to decide not to attend the Summit of the Americas. It would be premature to state that the summit of the hemisphere is useless. [end recording]

They all rejected the possibility that due to the loss of the fast track Chile should refrain from attending the hemispheric summit in the United States.

Foreign Minister on Free Trade Postponement

PY1609230694 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa has said the postponement of a free trade accord with the United States is more harmful for the United States than for Chile.

During a working breakfast at the Exporters of Manufactured Products Association, Minister Figueroa explained the scope of a free trade accord with the United States. He said it represents a great opportunity for our country because the U.S. Government's decision to remove the fast track [preceding two words in English] treatment for the negotiations represents another sign of the complexity of this accord.

[Begin Figueroa recording] The postponement of the fast track authorization is, as we have already stated, regrettable. This situation, strangely enough, will complicate U.S. Latin American policy more than it will hinder Chile.

The U.S. Government decision slows down the drive for trade deregulation in the American continent just a few months before a U.S.-sponsored summit to discuss the main issues that concern our hemisphere. [end recording]

Concerning Mercosur [Common Market of the South], Figueroa explained that Chile will negotiate its entry into Mercosur only if it is fully compatible with our country's foreign trade priorities.

Colombia

Botero Says Police Changes, Morality Drive Tied

PA1709161594 Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 4 Sep 94 p 12A

[Text] Defense Minister Fernando Botero conceded that the reshuffle last Friday of the high-ranking officers of the police is at least partially related to the morality campaign being implemented by the new government.

President Samper, however, denied rumors claiming that the retirement of General Fabio Campo Silva was somehow related to the alleged telephone espionage against National Police Director Octavio Vargas Silva.

Vargas Silva said that the mass transfer of generals and the removal of Gen. Campo Silva and Gen. Jairo Antonio Rodriguez Quinones were in accordance with the natural changes scheduled by the institution.

According to Botero, "we took the case of the Cali Metropolitan Police very seriously by appointing a general with the highest merits and transferring to Cali officers and noncommissioned officers with absolutely clean and transparent records from various areas of the country to guarantee the best possible conditions of honesty and morality in that Police department."

He clarified that in the changes made to the top police positions, efforts were also implemented to strengthen intelligence to tackle drug trafficking.

During a departmental security meeting held in Valledupar yesterday, President Samper, Defense Minister Botero, and the police director agreed to equip—through special contract procedures—security forces in the area with helicopters so that they can guarantee the return of those landowners who were forced to escape due to the rampant violence. Defense Minister Botero explained that an increase in fighting strength, particularly in Cesar Department, has been considered within the framework of the five-year plan of the Armed Forces.

Gen. Luis Ernesto Gilibert Vargas, who was transferred from the Metropolitan Police of Valle de Aburra to the Metropolitan Police of Santa Fe de Bogota, conceded that his transfer was unexpected and added that he will continue the efforts of his predecessor Luis Alberto Montenegro Rinco, who was transferred to the Special Operations Deputy Directorate.

Meeting Shows Dissension Among Police Generals

PA1709034794 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Sep 94 p 6A

[Unattributed article: "Dispute Between Generals Exposed"]

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[Text] The dissension between the generals of the National Police that led to the 2 September shake up of its hierarchy were made public yesterday for the first time during a summit of National Police commanders in Santa Fe de Bogota.

Major General Octavio Vargas Silva, who was approved as Police director on 2 September, denied statements by Gen. Fabio Campos, the retired former National Police deputy director, that the High Command denied him resources to initiate antimafia operations in Valle del Cauca Department when he was commander of the Search Bloc.

Vargas Silva dismissed the statements of the retired deputy director and criticized the manner in which he made them. "I think that he should have said this before retiring," Vargas Silva added.

On 7 September, Gen. Campos broke his silence upon returning from a farm in Girardot where he had spent four days. He told the media that the operations of the Search Bloc "started from zero, they gave me nothing, just like in Medellin."

The officer, who was removed from his post by the government, told a television newscast that the institution refused to provide economic and material support to start operations against drug traffickers in Valle del Cauca.

EL TIEMPO learned that during the various clashes between the two generals, the former deputy Police director on one occasion requested a list that Pablo Escobar had on him on the day the authorities killed him. The list contained the addresses of the leading mafia barons of Valle del Cauca.

The request was made in view of the plans to begin a systematic operation against the top mafia agents in Valle del Cauca, but surprisingly it was turned down.

Upon learning of Gen. Campos's statements, the Police director denied that the government or the Police ever refused to support the Search Bloc, which operates in Cali, and added that this support was supplied on a timely basis.

"There is a lot of resentment here and other things that I do not want to discuss," the Police director said ironically.

Vargas Silva claimed that aid was simultaneously sent to Army and Police units within the Search Bloc of Cali. The high-ranking official added that "the Army should be asked about this because the Search Bloc simultaneously received all kinds of support."

In dismissing Campos's charges, Vargas said that "support for the Search Bloc and operations in Valle del Cauca Department and in Cali was timely and swift. They received equipment, economic and administrative resources, and other kinds of support."

The Police director added that support for the Search Bloc was given as requested by Gen. Campos. EL TIEMPO tried to contact Gen. Campos, but to no avail.

On 8 September, the Police explained that the imposition of a state of disciplinary emergency on departmental commands aimed to prevent the closing [prescriban] of investigations involving officers and agents of this institution.

"There are 1,420 cases on file in the military courts and we want to decrease immunity in cases deserving criminal punishment," a Police source said.

The Police Internal Control Office is investigating 3,420 disciplinary cases. Gen. Vargas Silva said that the main ones deal with improper behavior.

Paraguay

Wasmosy Voices Opposition to Invasion of Haiti

PY1609214794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2044 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Asuncion, 16 Sep (EFE)—On 16 September, Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy stated that there is not enough coherence in the U.S. decision to invade Haiti to oust the military regime that rules the Caribbean island.

Wasmosy told the press that the Paraguayan stance on this issue is "to respect the self-determination of peoples and the UN Security Council resolution concerning Haiti. Still, we are against invading other countries."

"Why isn't the PRC invaded then? Why isn't Cuba invaded then?" he wondered. Wasmosy went on to say that "if we want to be coherent and apply the same criteria across the board, we will then have to invade them all."

He then voiced his hope that the issue of Haiti "will not serve as a precedent for doing the same thing with other countries."

Wasmosy signed a joint declaration with his Ecuadoran counterpart Sixto Duran-Ballen on 15 September in which both heads of state reiterated their support for the efforts being undertaken in the hemisphere to reinstate the democratically elected Haitian authorities in power through peaceful means.

Ecuadoran President Favors Rio Group Stand on Haiti

PY1709013294 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Excerpt] We were able to obtain the opinions of Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen and of Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy on a current international topic: The probable invasion of Haiti within the next few hours.

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[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] When he was asked for his opinion on the imminent invasion of Haiti by the multinational forces, headed by the United States, the Ecuadoran president said:

[Duran Ballen] Well, all of Latin America hopes that democracy will return to that country and also to Cuba.

We discussed this topic during the Rio de Janeiro meeting, and we—the 14 members of the Rio Group—made a collective call for steps to be taken in both countries. In the one country, we have called for the return of the executive who was legitimately elected by the people, and in the other we asked that the people be given a chance at self-determination.

Thus, this was the posture in the recent Rio meeting and this posture is fully shared by the people and government of Ecuador. [passage omitted on previously filed material] [end recording]

Venezuela

Senator Urges Clinton To Stop Invasion of Haiti

PA1809234994 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Sep 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Senator Hilarion Cardozo has sent a letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton asking him to stop the invasion of Haiti.

In the letter, Cardozo suggested that Clinton review the history of U.S. relations with the continent and take examples from the results obtained in each U.S. invasion.

Cardozo, who was a member of Christian Democratic Organization of America, emphasized that Haiti's misery cannot be taken to extremes just because the United States wants to become the guardian of democracy on our continent.

U.S. Decision on Venezuelan Oil 'Discriminatory'

PA1809134894 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 Sep 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Miguel Bocco, president of the Venezuelan Oil Chamber, believes that the decision by the U.S. Congress not to import Venezuelan oil constitutes a discriminatory act to protect U.S. oil companies. Undoubtedly, this situation could affect the import of U.S. goods and services. Such a market will be replaced by those countries that buy and consume Venezuelan fuel.

Council of Ministers Approves Austerity Plan

PA1609232194 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Report by Cecilia Pachano from Miraflores Palace; from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] The Council of Ministers has approved a decree establishing austerity measures in all government offices. The decision, as reported by Presidency Minister Andres Caldera, is part of the macroeconomic stabilization plan and is intended to control public spending and make proper use of state resources.

[Begin Caldera recording] First, any public administration organization that has not yet reorganized must do so within one year. This will be done to implement structural changes and to cut government spending.

Second, the decree establishes that central and autonomous public administration bodies may not have more that 20 percent of available resources in their current accounts. The remaining resources must be placed in banks and the interest deposited at the National Treasury.

Autonomous entities that have the legal authority to use interest for their own programs must inform the National Treasury quarterly on the handling of those resources. [end recording]

The decree also establishes the need to inform CORDIPLAN [Office of Coordination and Planning] about the subsidies granted by these bodies. It also establishes that the bonuses and profits granted by said bodies must be approved by the Council of Ministers. It also restricts the use of cellular telephones, international direct dial, vehicle purchases, authorization for the purchase of tickets and travel allowances, and the assignment of chauffeurs and bodyguards, which must have the approval of the organization's highest authority.

The Council of Ministers also discussed the request for a 12 to 25 percent rate increase by CANTV [National Telephone Company of Venezuela], but before making a decision, it decided to appoint a commission formed by the ministers of finance, transport and communications, and [words indistinct] to hold talks with the telephone company.

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